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# INVINCIBLE™



VOLUME SEVENTEEN

## WHAT'S HAPPENING







**image**® COMICS PRESENTS

# INVINCIBLE™

## WHAT'S HAPPENING



CREATED BY  
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**image**®





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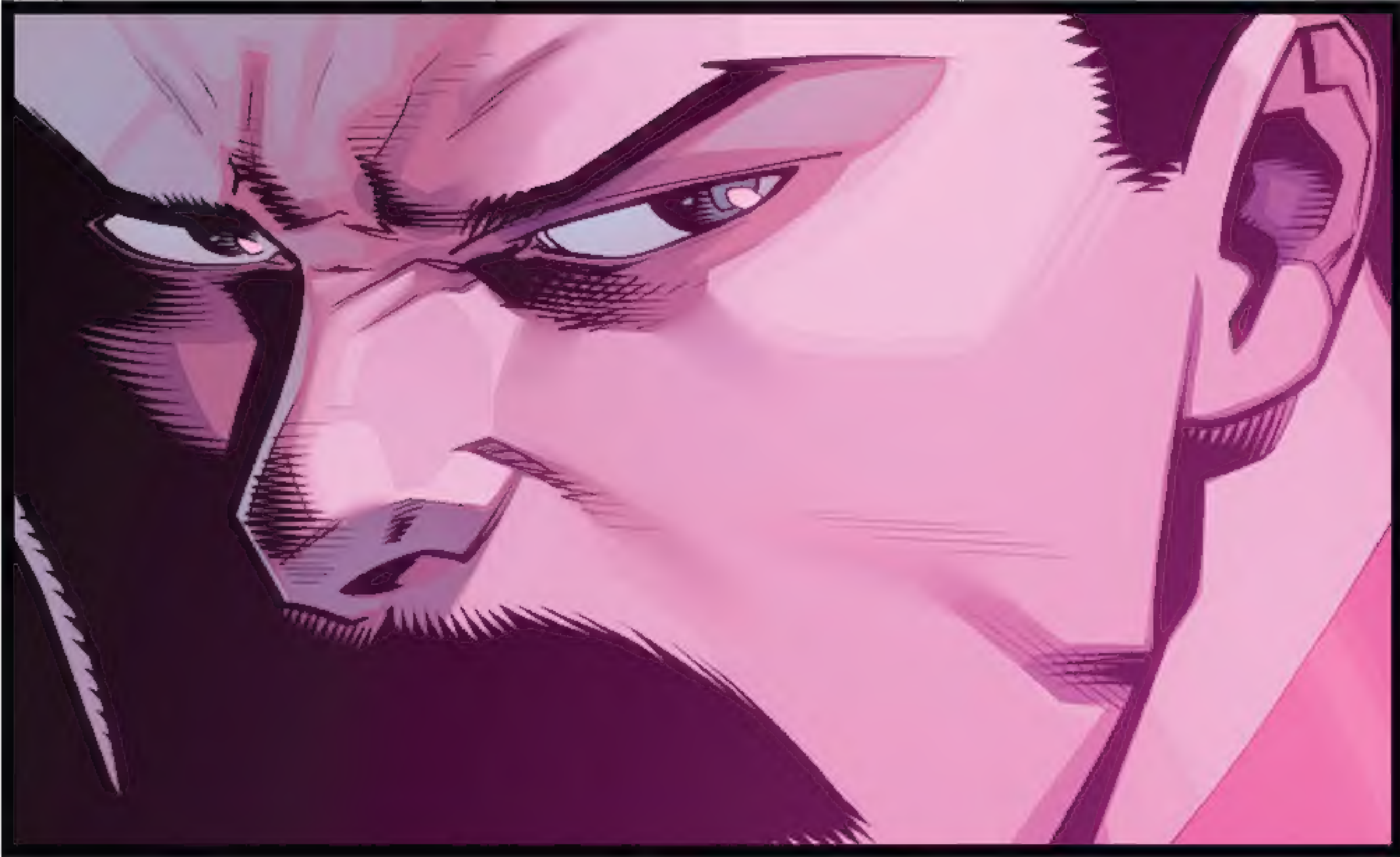
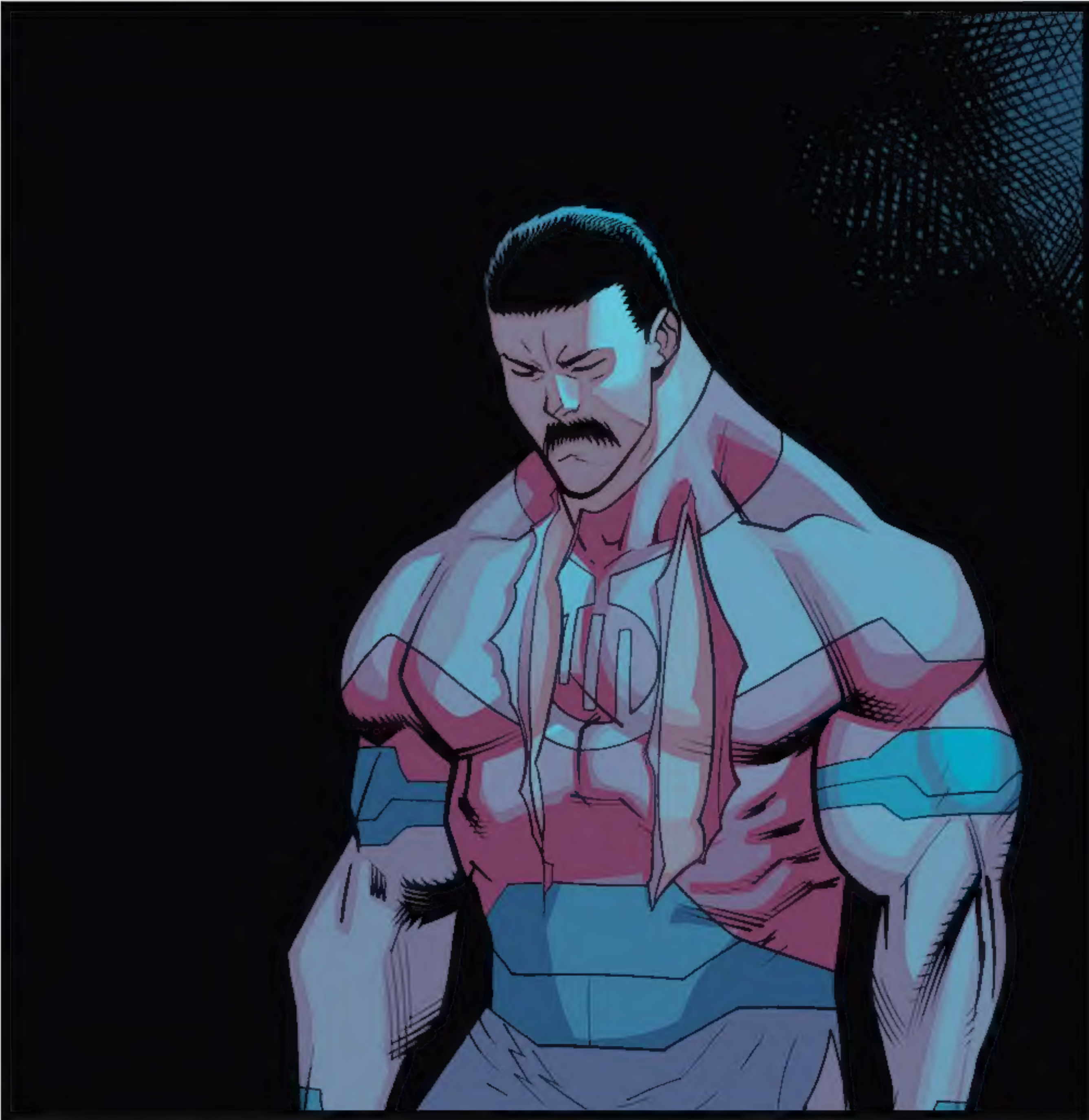
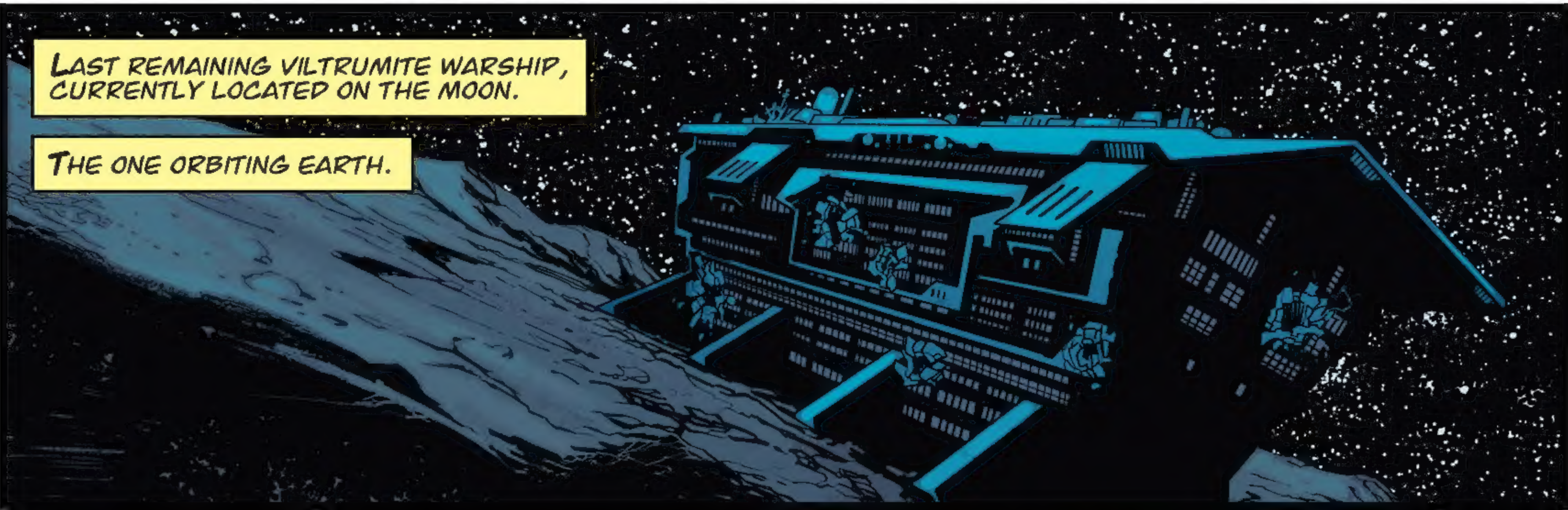
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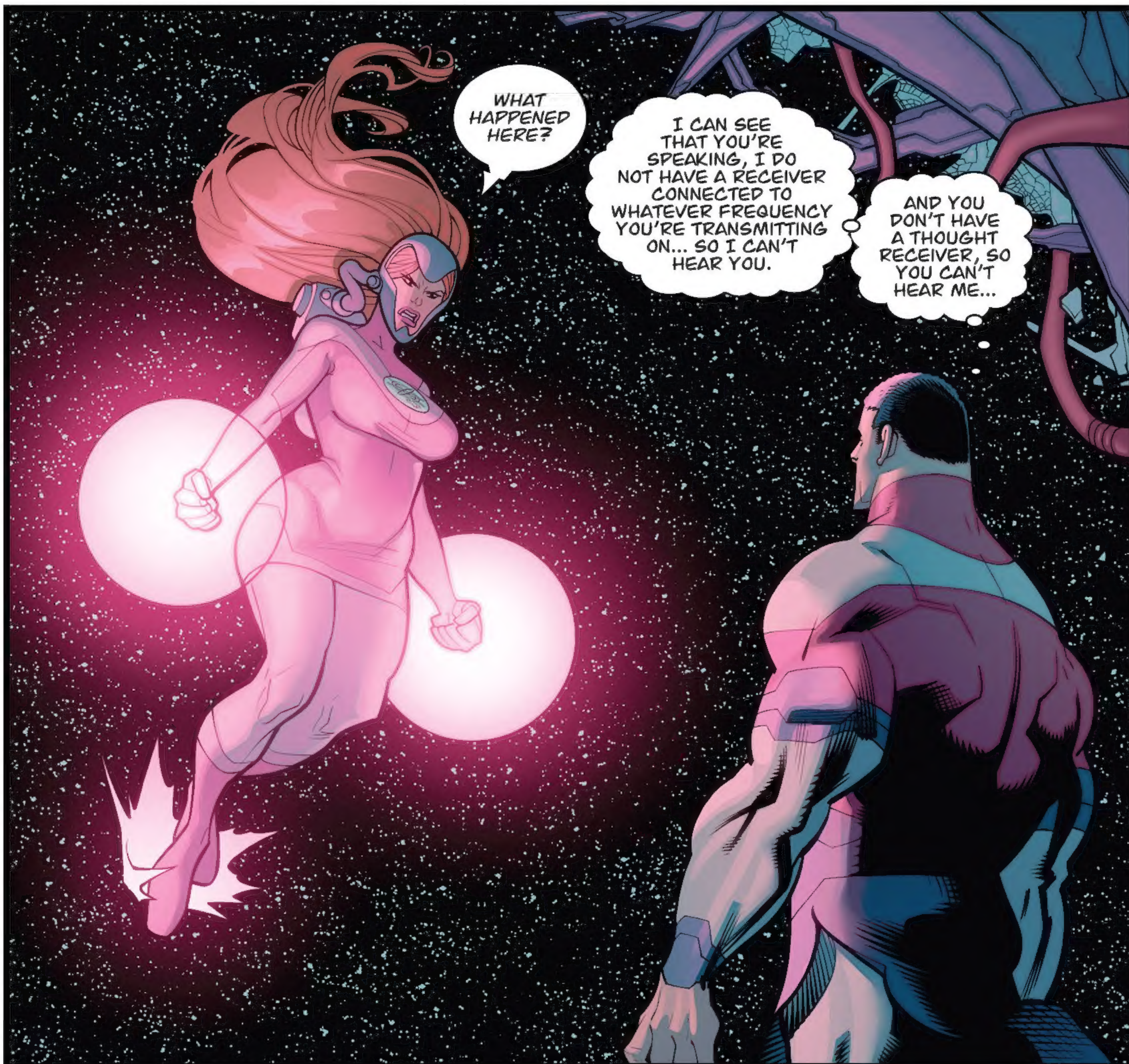
# CHAPTER ONE











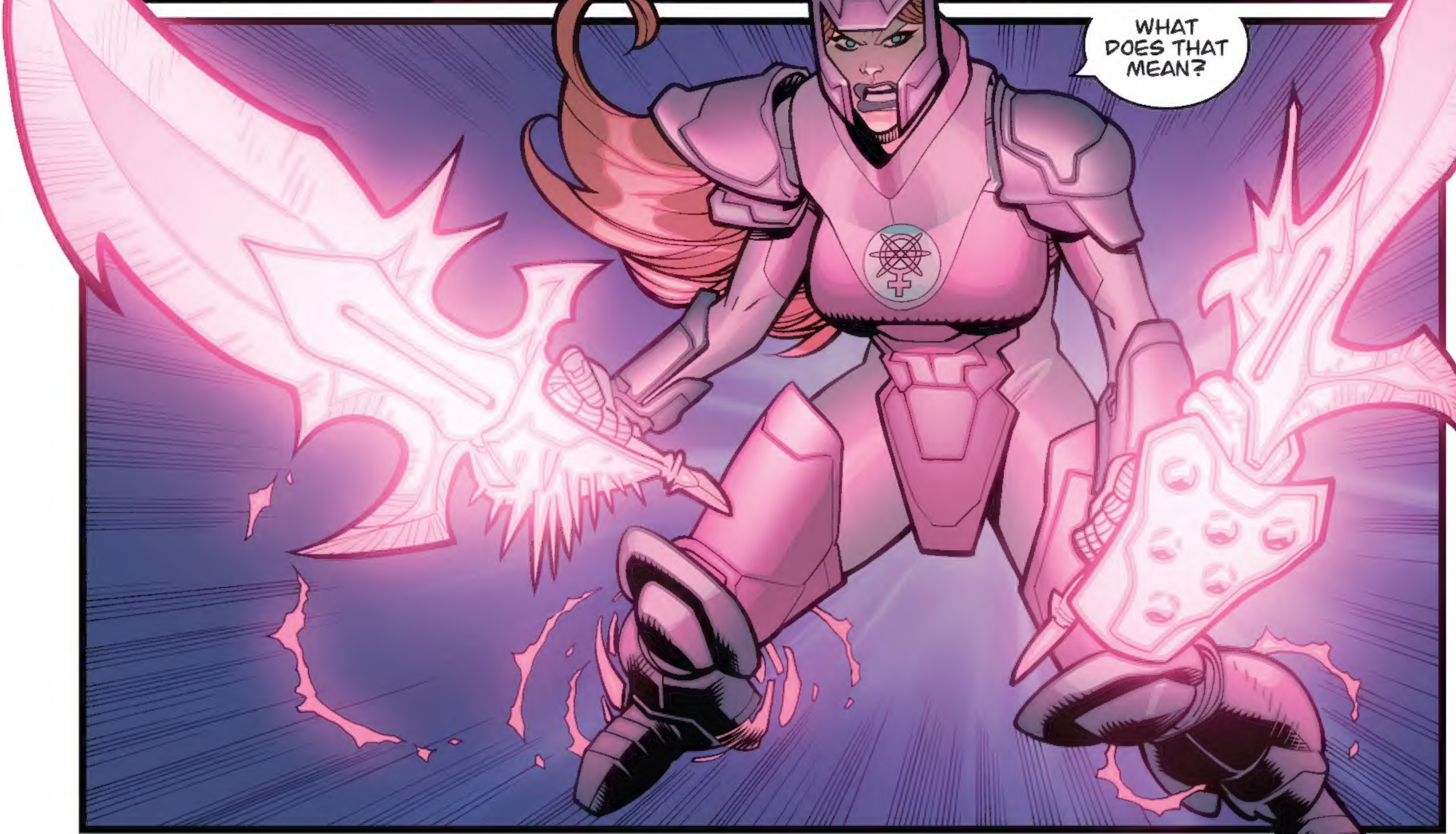




WHAT  
HAPPENED?  
WHERE IS  
MARK?

IS HE  
OKAY?

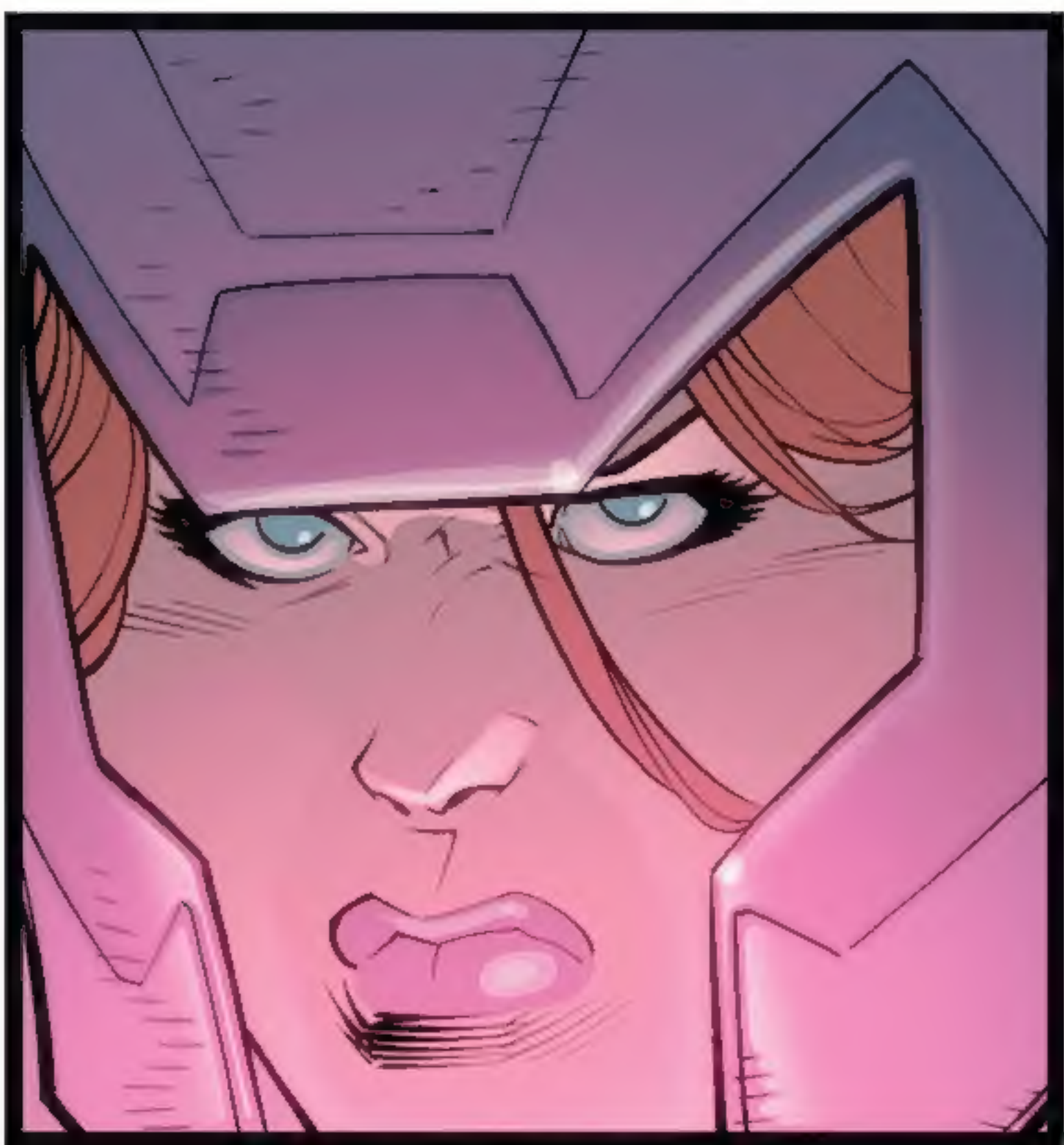
HE IS NO  
LONGER  
HERE.



WHAT  
DOES THAT  
MEAN?



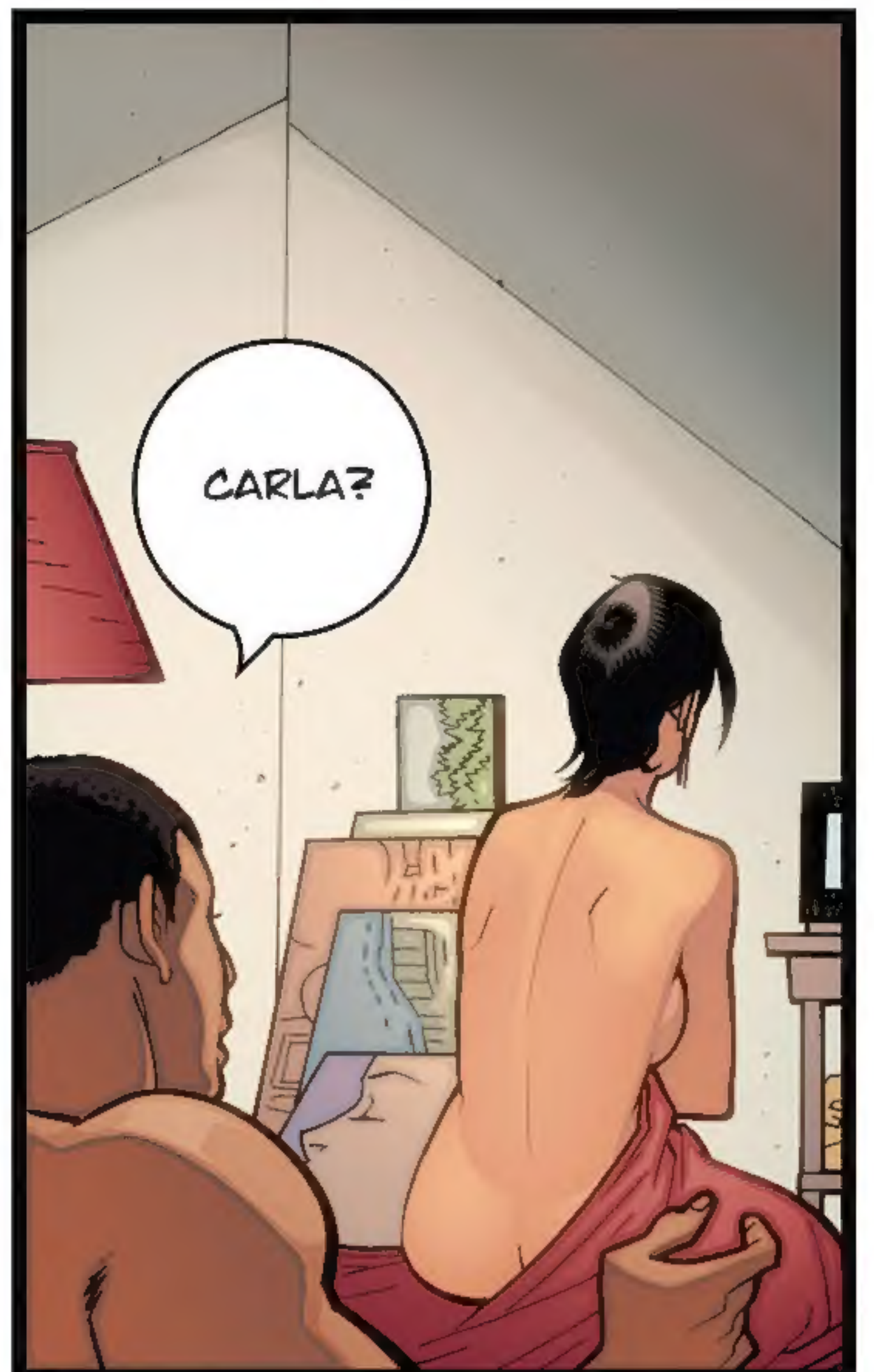
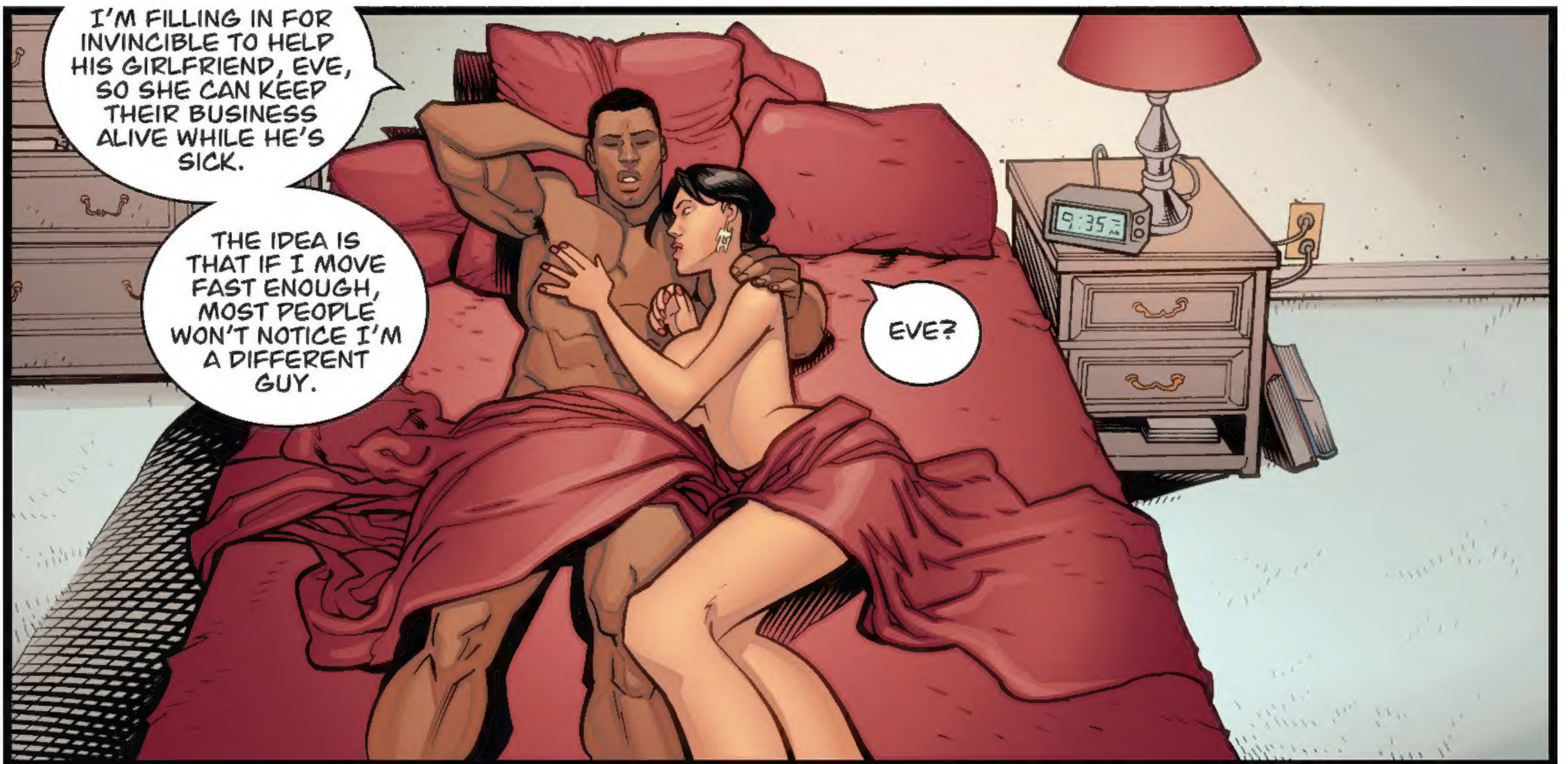
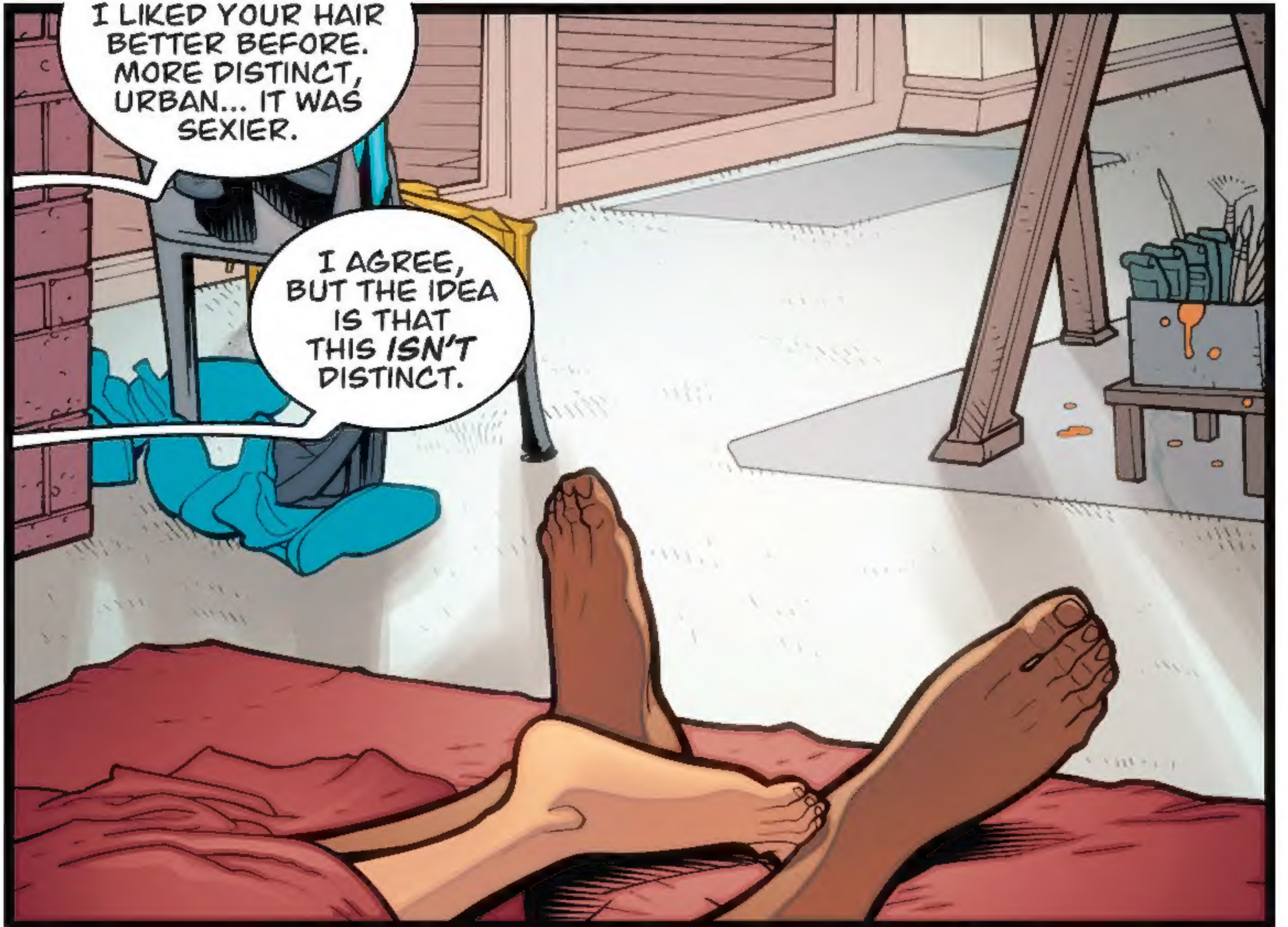
HA! HA! HA!  
HA! HA!



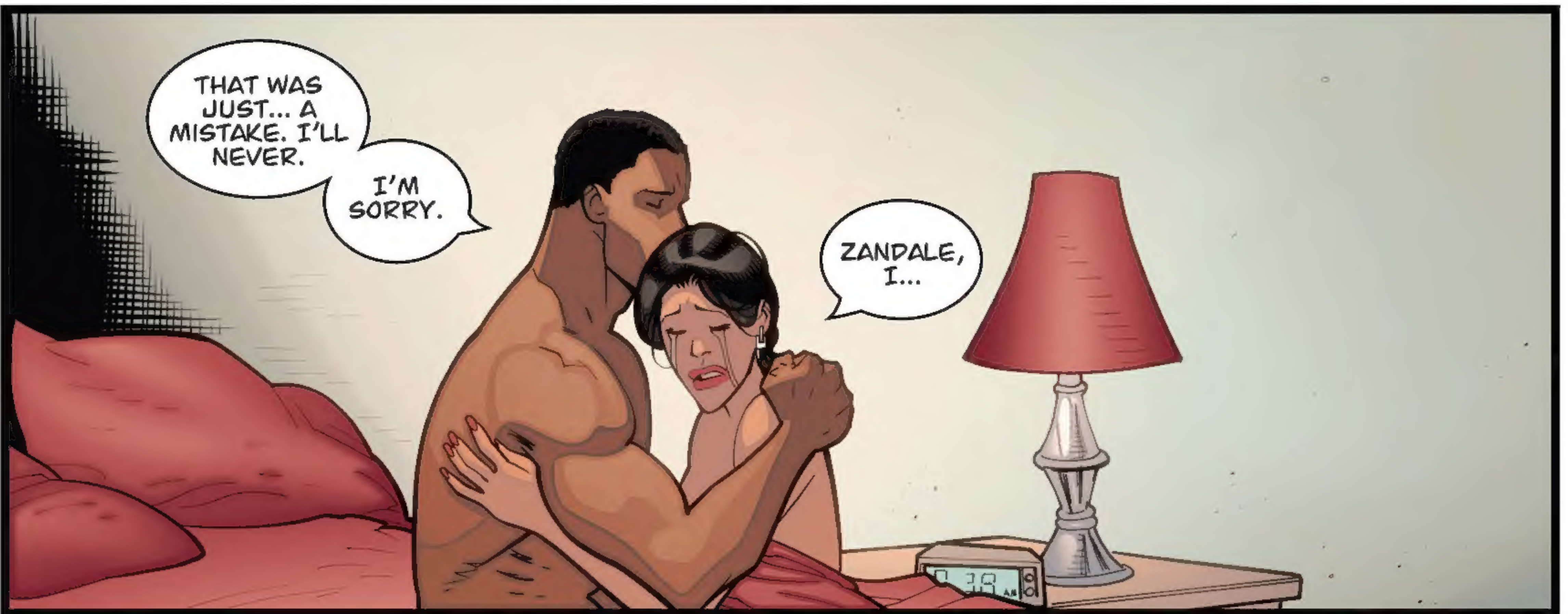
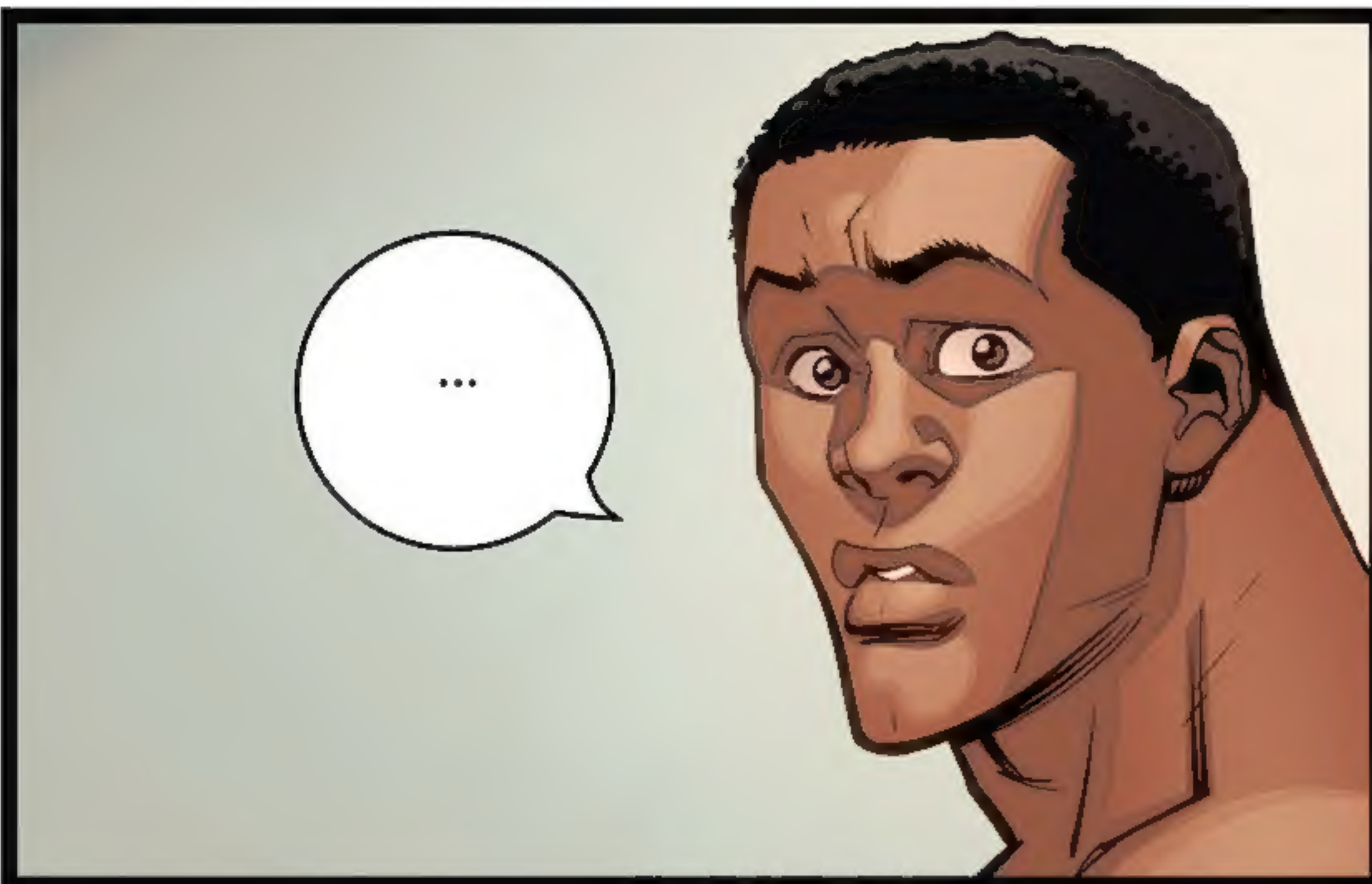
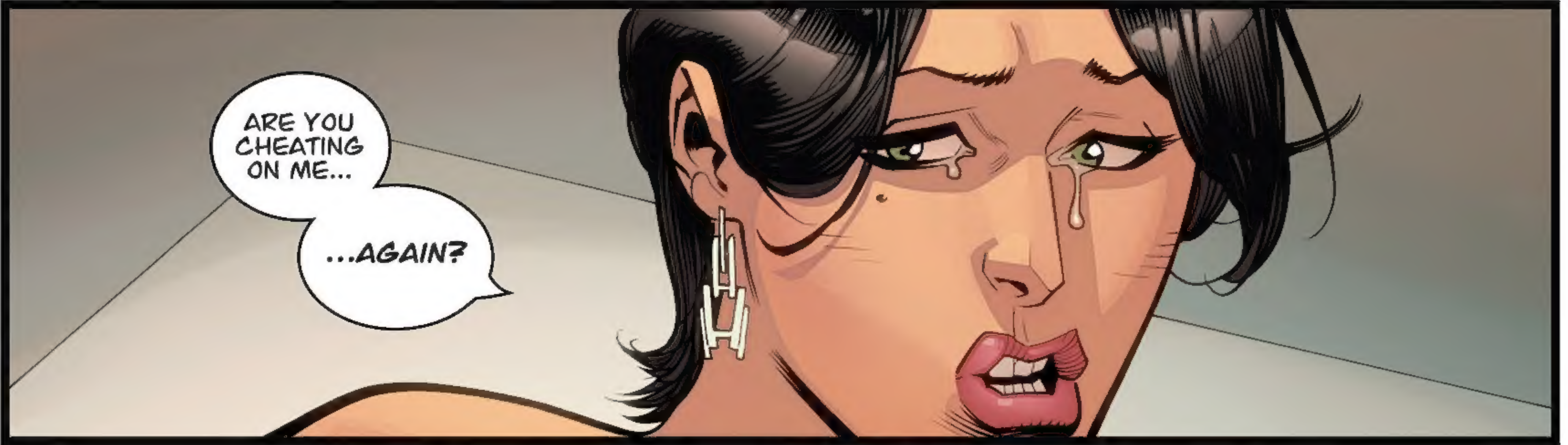
CALM DOWN BEFORE  
YOU FIND YOURSELF  
IMPALED ON A  
CLENCHED FIST...  
AGAIN.

WE WERE  
ATTACKED, HE  
WAS TAKEN.  
DIRECT YOUR ANGER  
TO YOUR MATE'S  
MONSTROUS  
COLLEAGUE THAT  
OFFERED TO  
HELP HIM.



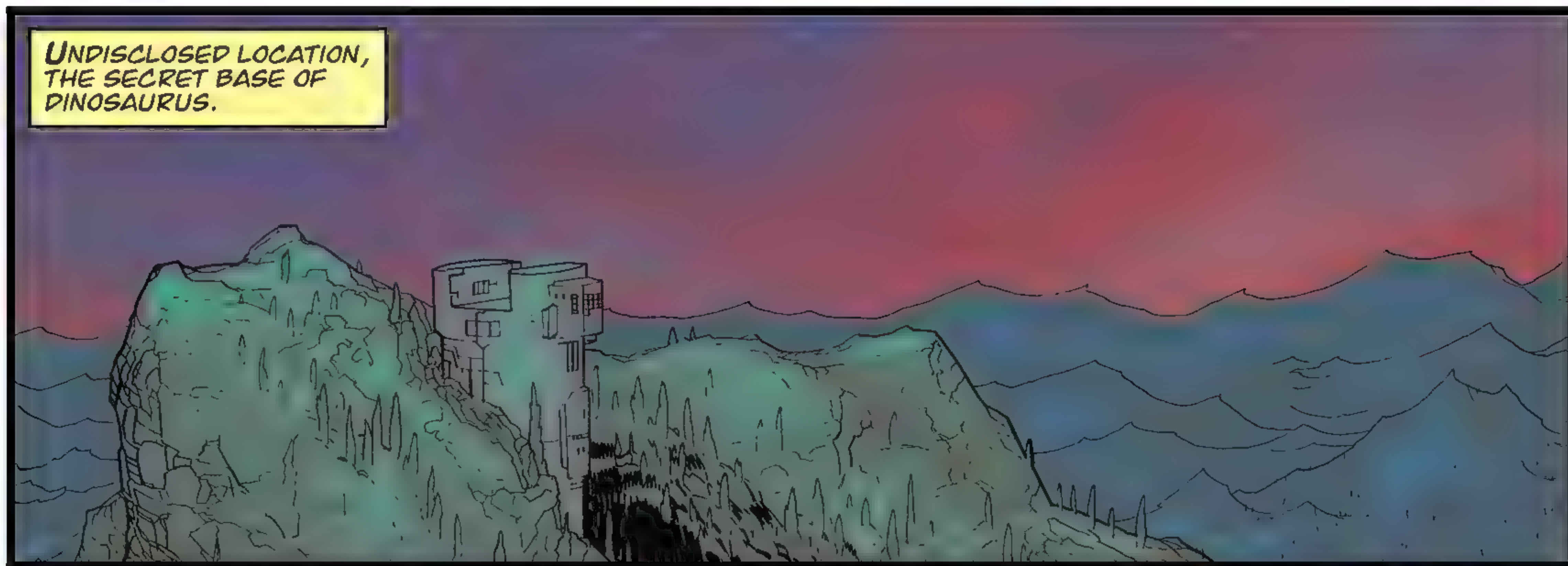








UNDISCLOSED LOCATION,  
THE SECRET BASE OF  
DINOSAURUS.



LIKE... WHAT  
HAPPENED?

I DON'T  
KNOW, I THOUGHT  
YOU DIED... I  
WOKE UP IN A PILE OF  
WRECKAGE, YOU WERE  
IN YOUR DINOSAURUS  
FORM--BUT YOU WERE  
ALL BEATEN UP...  
REALLY BAD.

YOU  
GRUNTED AT  
ME, I COULDN'T  
MAKE ANYTHING  
OUT--THEN YOU  
PASSED OUT, AND  
TURNED.

I HAVE  
NO IDEA WHY  
WE'RE HERE,  
OR WHAT  
HAPPENED.



AM I DOING  
BAD STUFF  
AGAIN? DID  
YOU STOP  
ME?

NO, YOU  
WEREN'T DOING  
ANYTHING BAD.  
I THINK THAT'S  
BEHIND YOU... I'M  
HELPING YOU  
ACCOMPLISH  
GOOD  
THINGS.

A LOT  
OF GOOD  
THINGS... AT  
LEAST I WAS,  
UNTIL I GOT  
SICK.



DID I MAKE  
YOU SICK?  
MAYBE I  
TRICKED YOU,  
BRO.

WHEN I'M  
THE MONSTER,  
I'M PURE EVIL--  
THAT'S WHY I  
LOOK LIKE THAT.  
YOU GOTTA  
WATCH OUT,  
MAN.



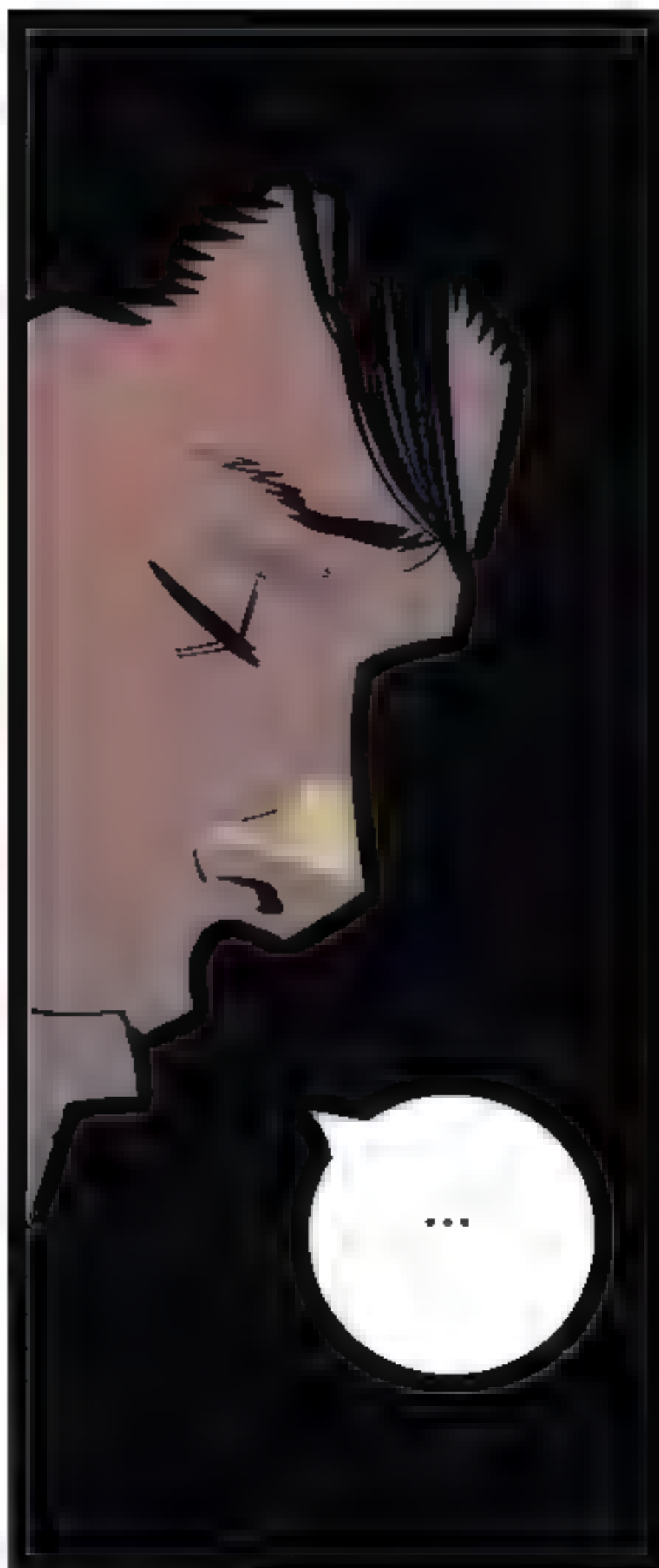




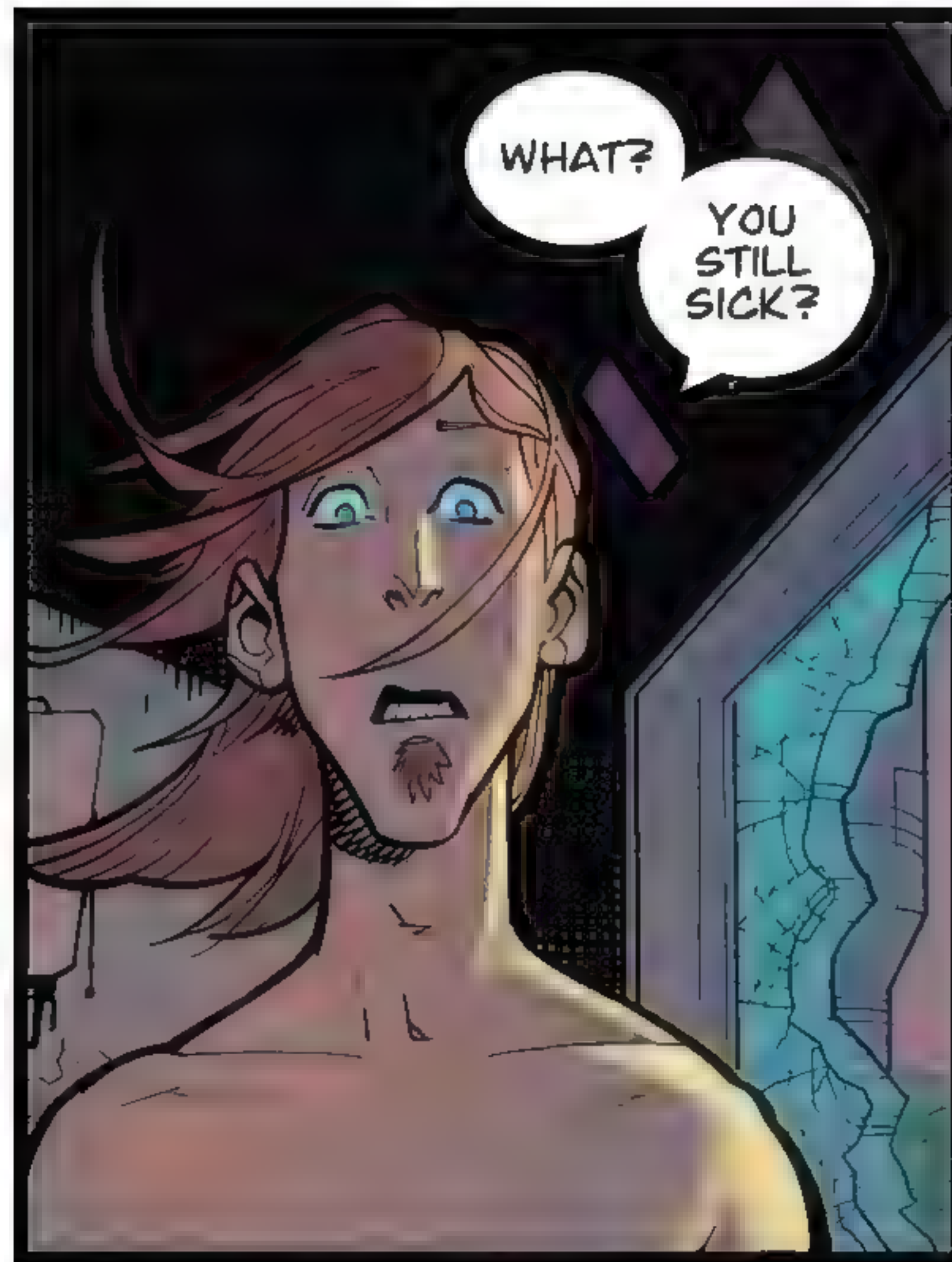
PURE EVIL?

NO. THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL.

I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT, AND DINOSAURUS ISN'T REALLY EVIL... HE'S KIND OF--WELL... HE'S A BIT LIKE MY BROTHER.



...



WHAT?

YOU STILL SICK?



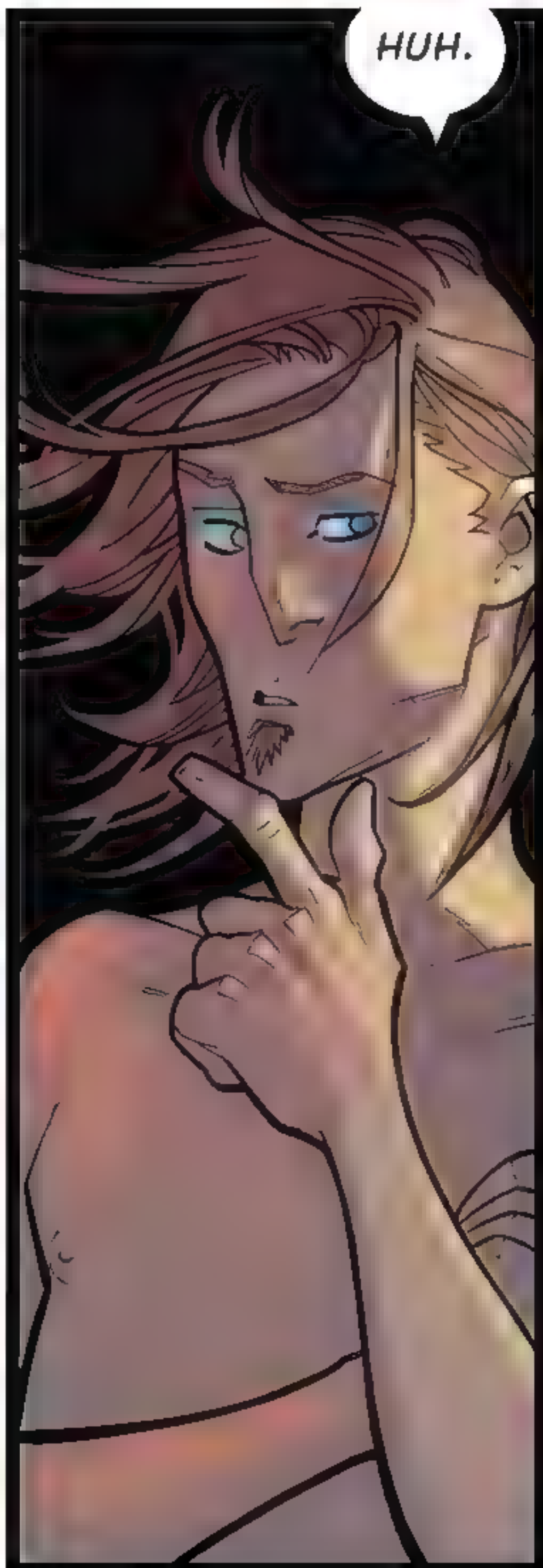
NO, IT'S... IT'S NOTHING.

MY BROTHER DOESN'T MEAN TO DO BAD THINGS, HE'S JUST... DOING THINGS HE FEELS ARE NECESSARY, WITHOUT CONCERN FOR THE... HUMAN ELEMENT.



DINOSAURUS ISN'T A BEING OF PURE EVIL...

...HE'S PURE INTELLIGENCE.



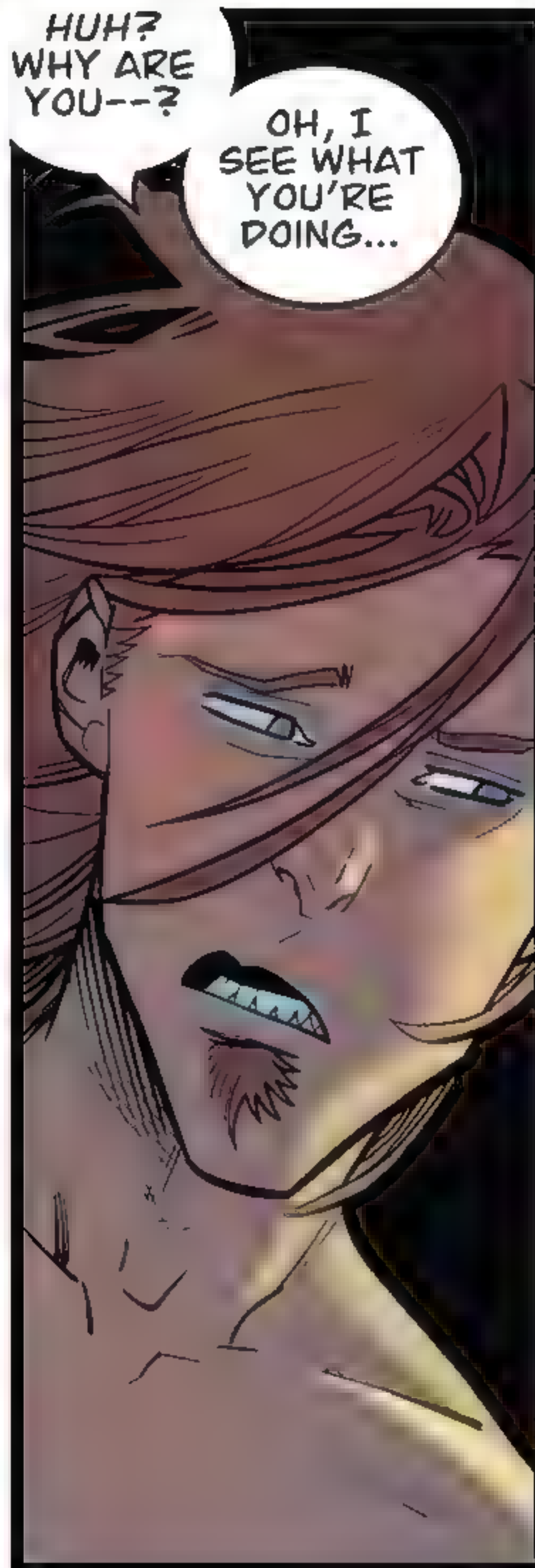
HUH.



HAVE I EVER TOLD YOU THE PRODUCTION ORDER ON A COMIC BOOK? HOW THEY'RE MADE.

YOU START WITH THE WRITER, USUALLY, UNLESS IT'S A WRITER-ARTIST SITUATION AND THEY'RE THE SAME GUY, OR SOMETIMES THE WRITER AND ARTIST WORK REALLY CLOSELY IN THE EARLY STAGES AND DEVELOP IDEAS TOGETHER.

ANYWAY, THE STORY IS WRITTEN--



HUH? WHY ARE YOU--?

OH, I SEE WHAT YOU'RE DOING...





WHEN WE  
CAME OVER  
TO HANG OUT,  
TECH JACKET--  
THIS TOTALLY  
WAS NOT  
PART OF THE  
PLAN!

SORRY,  
MAN--WHEN  
DUTY CALLS,  
DUTY CALLS!  
THANKS FOR  
COMING ALONG  
WHEN I GOT  
THE ALERT!



YOU THINK YOUR DAD  
WILL STILL BE UP FOR  
WATCHING FISTFUL OF  
DOLLARS WHEN WE'RE  
DONE? I'VE NEVER  
SEEN AN EARTH  
MOVIE.

HE'S  
ALWAYS UP  
FOR WATCHING  
FISTFUL OF  
DOLLARS!

RAD!





ANY CLUE HOW TO BEAT THIS THING? I CAN'T TELL WHAT PARTS ARE HIM AND WHAT PARTS ARE HIS SUIT!

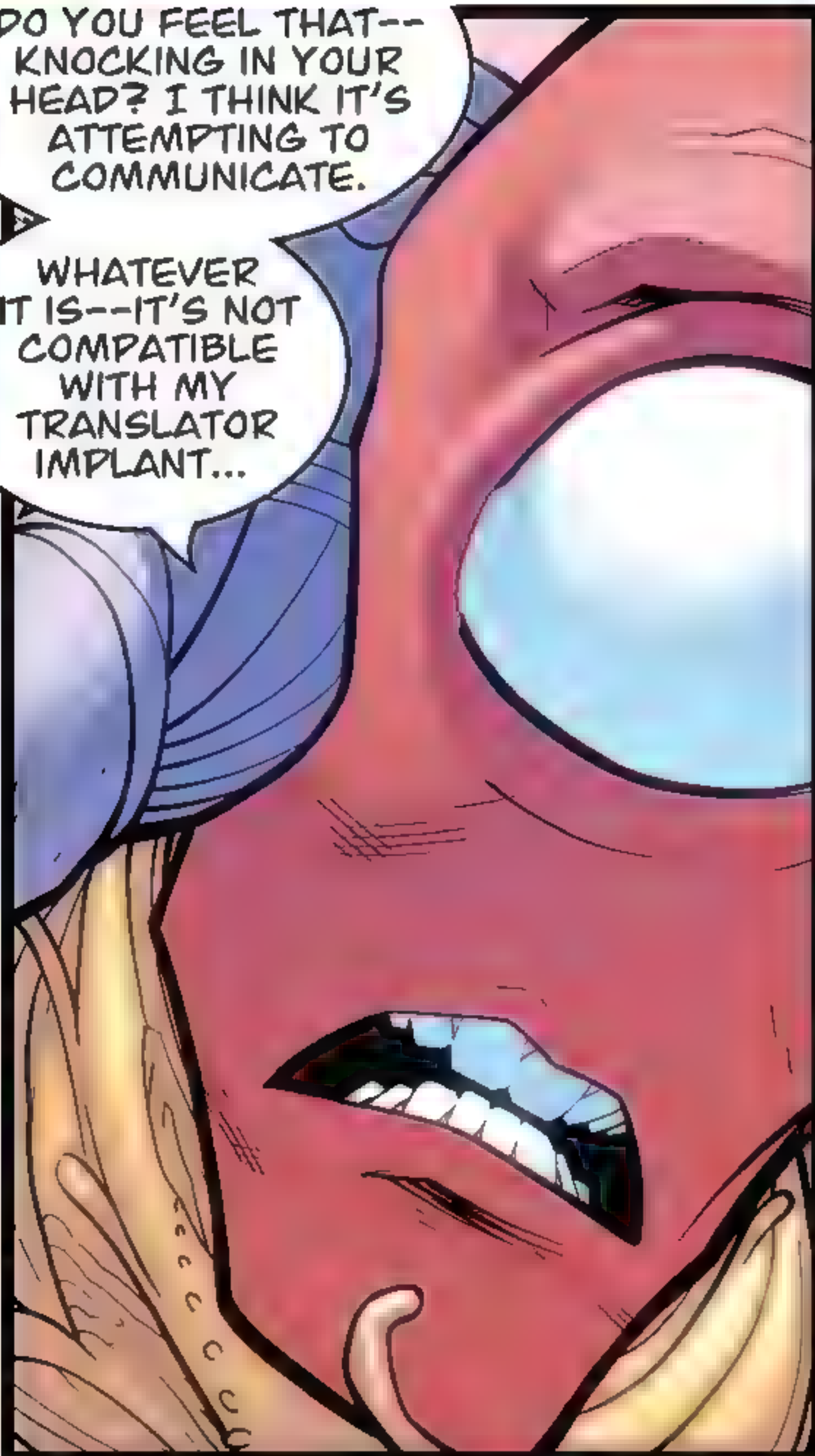
THIS IS A SUIT, RIGHT?!



I'VE NEVER FOUGHT ANYTHING LIKE THIS GUY BEFORE-- BUT IT APPEARS TO BE SOME KIND OF SYMBIOTIC ORGANISM.

WAP! WAP!

I CAN'T REALLY TELL WHO'S IN CONTROL.



DO YOU FEEL THAT-- KNOCKING IN YOUR HEAD? I THINK IT'S ATTEMPTING TO COMMUNICATE.

▶ WHATEVER IT IS--IT'S NOT COMPATIBLE WITH MY TRANSLATOR IMPLANT...



CRAP! THIS THING IS MELTING MY TECH JACKET-- IT'S GETTING INSIDE!

HIT IT! HIT IT!

HIT IT!



I AM!

KRANK!









NO SWEAT. I'M HAPPY TO HELP OUT--DOESN'T SEEM LIKE IT'S GOING TO BE ABLE TO BREAK FREE OF MY CONSTRUCT.

I DIDN'T COME HERE TO HELP THOUGH--IT'S MARK--HE'S--



OH, GOD-- IS HE--?!



HE'S ALIVE... HE'S GOT TO BE... BUT I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS.

ALTHOUGH, YOU DO.



WHAT?! HE'S ON THE VILTRUMITE SHIP...

...ISN'T HE?

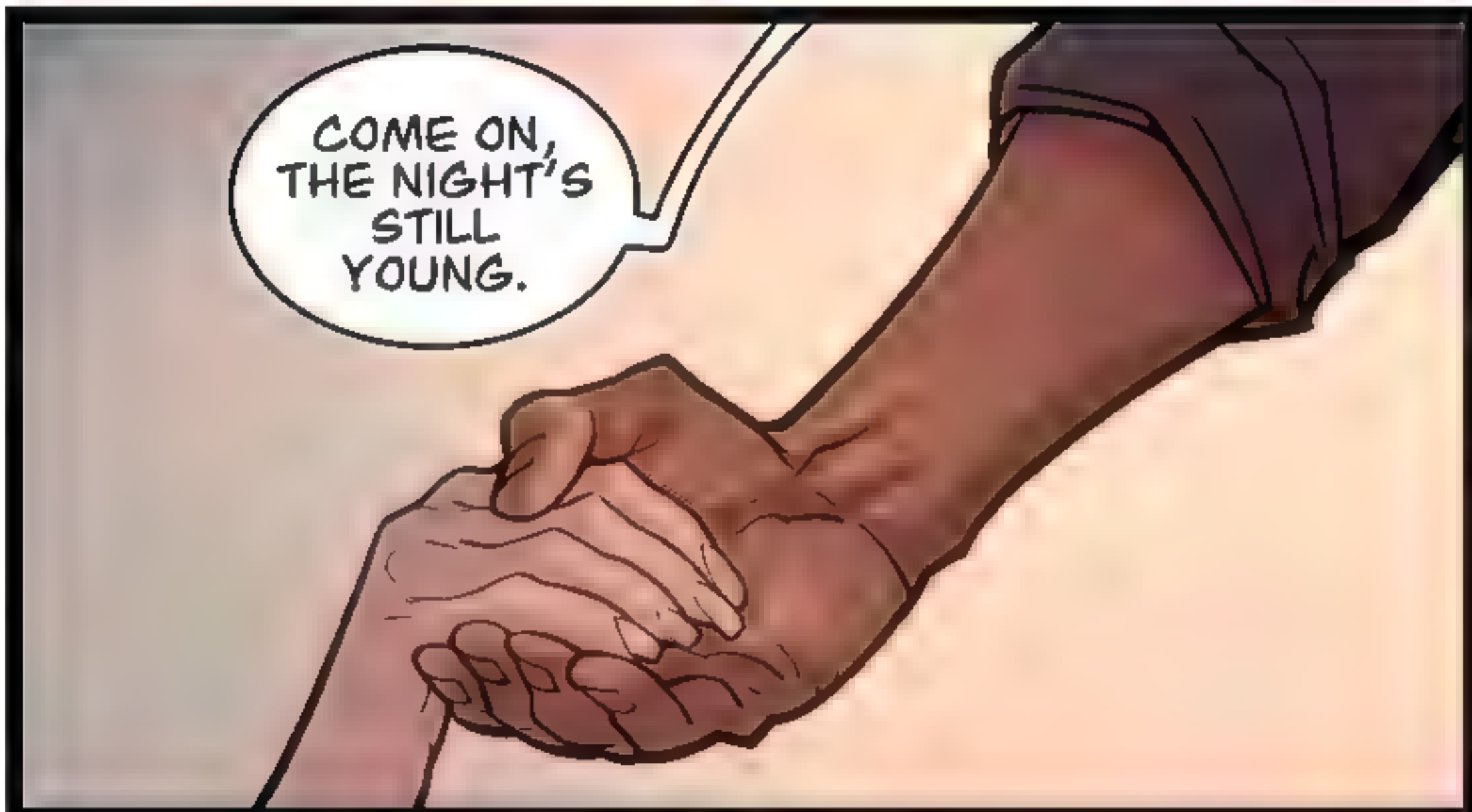
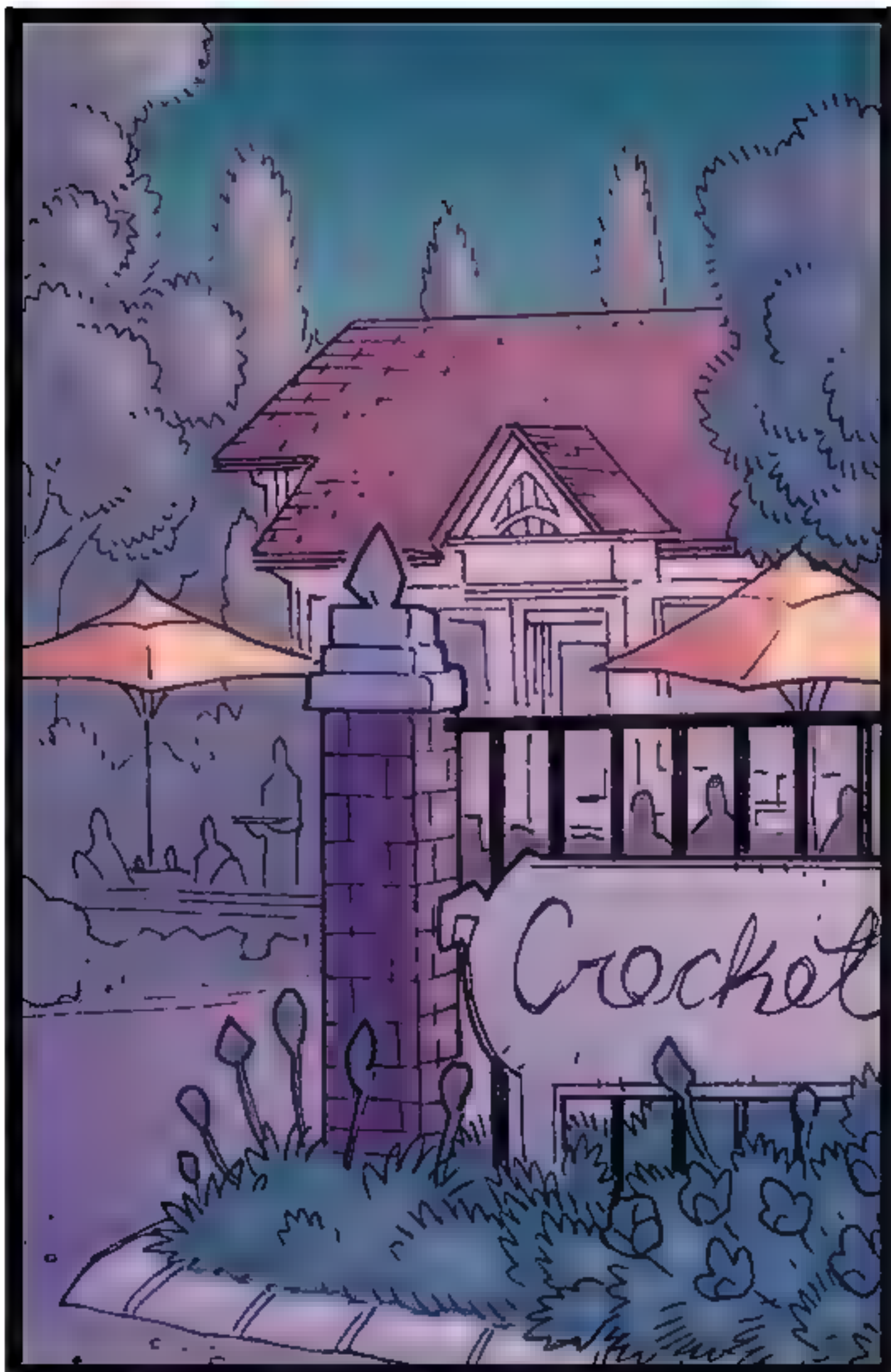


DINOSAURUS HAS HIM--AND I NEED YOUR HELP IF WE'RE GOING TO GET HIM BACK.

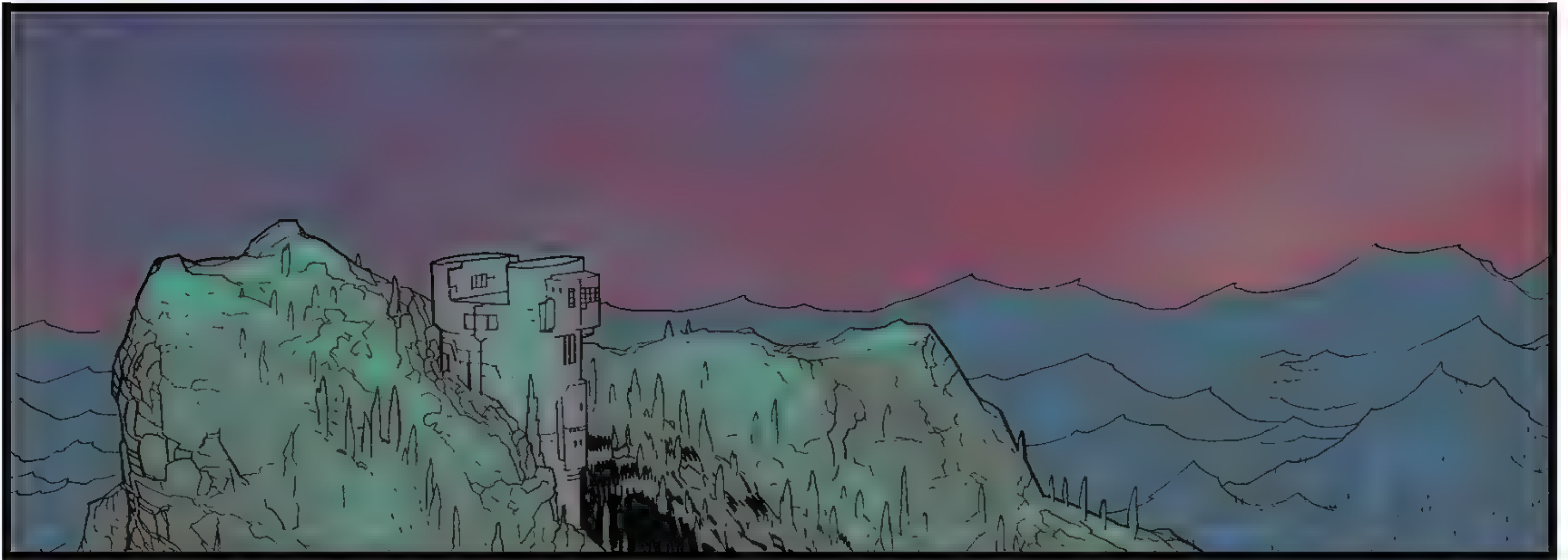
I CAN TAKE YOU TO THE PLACE MARK DIRECTED ME TO BEFORE... DINOSAURUS PROBABLY TOOK HIM THERE, RIGHT?

RIGHT, WE'LL NEED TO DROP THIS GUY OFF AT STRONGHOLD PENITENTIARY FOR PROCESSING FIRST, THOUGH.



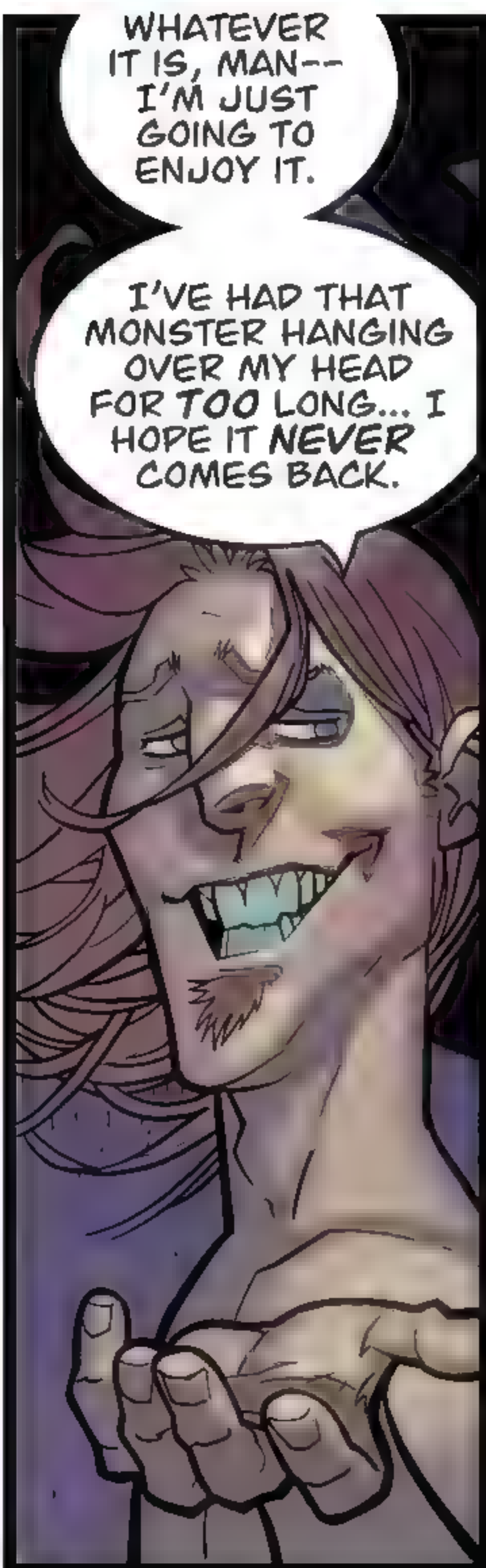






I DON'T UNDERSTAND, IT'S JUST NOT WORKING. MAYBE IF I WAS BEATEN UP AS BADLY AS YOU SAY... THAT PART OF ME IS, LIKE... DEAD AND STUFF.

THAT CAN'T BE IT... MAYBE YOU'RE HEALING, I DON'T KNOW HOW YOUR TRANSFORMATION WORKS... IT COULD JUST BE "OFF" RIGHT NOW.



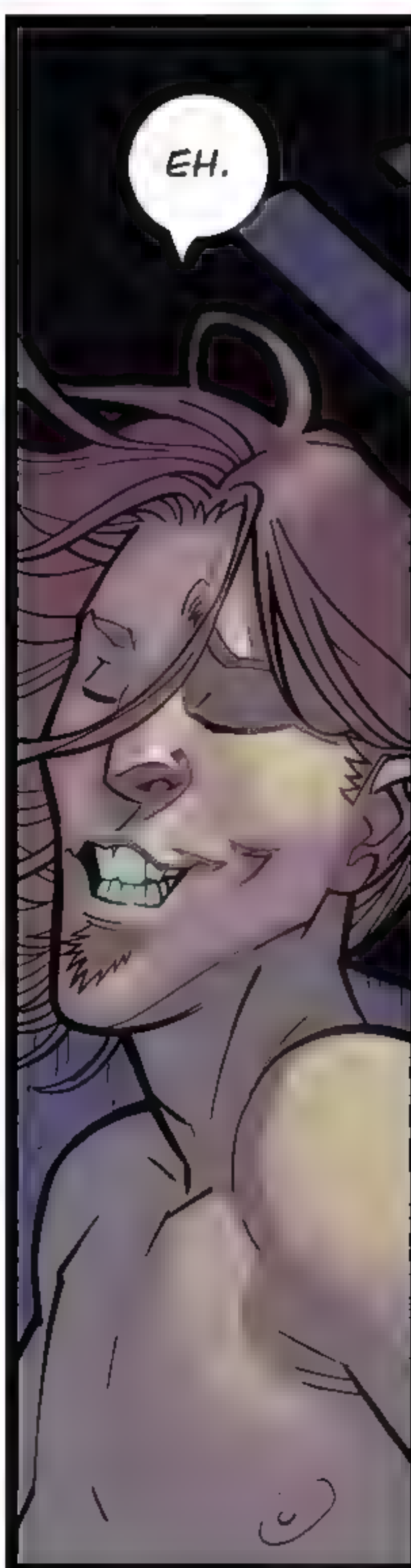
WHATEVER IT IS, MAN-- I'M JUST GOING TO ENJOY IT.

I'VE HAD THAT MONSTER HANGING OVER MY HEAD FOR TOO LONG... I HOPE IT NEVER COMES BACK.

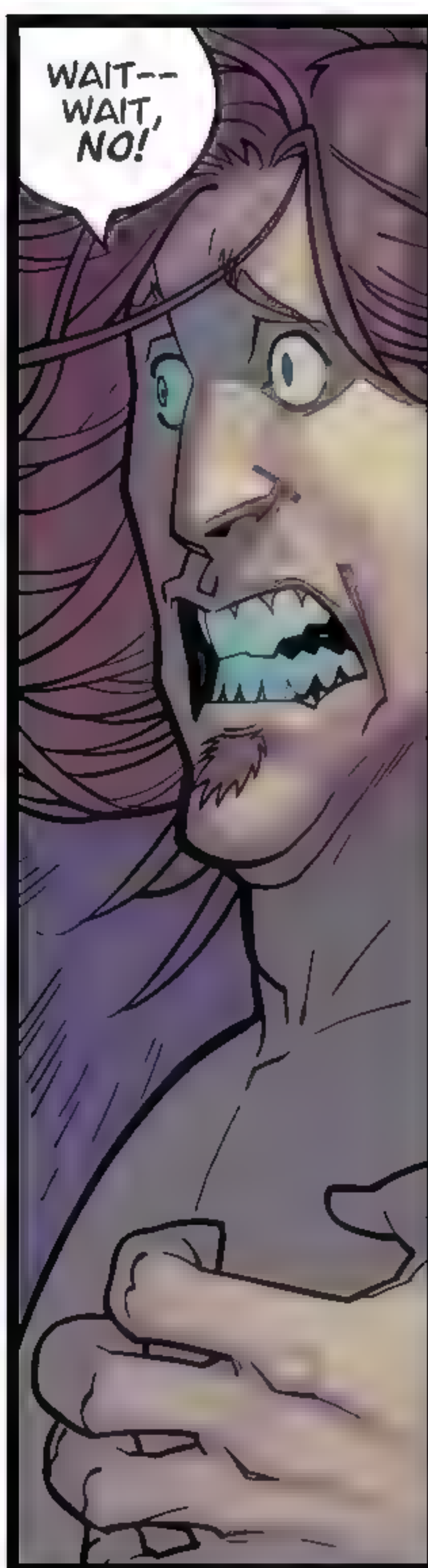


THAT WOULDN'T BE SO GREAT FOR ME. I DON'T KNOW WHY I'M HERE, OR WHY THIS BASE IS TRASHED.

FRANKLY, WHATEVER DID THIS COULD BE COMING BACK. OUR LIVES COULD BE IN DANGER.



EH.



WAIT-- WAIT, NO!



FINALLY.

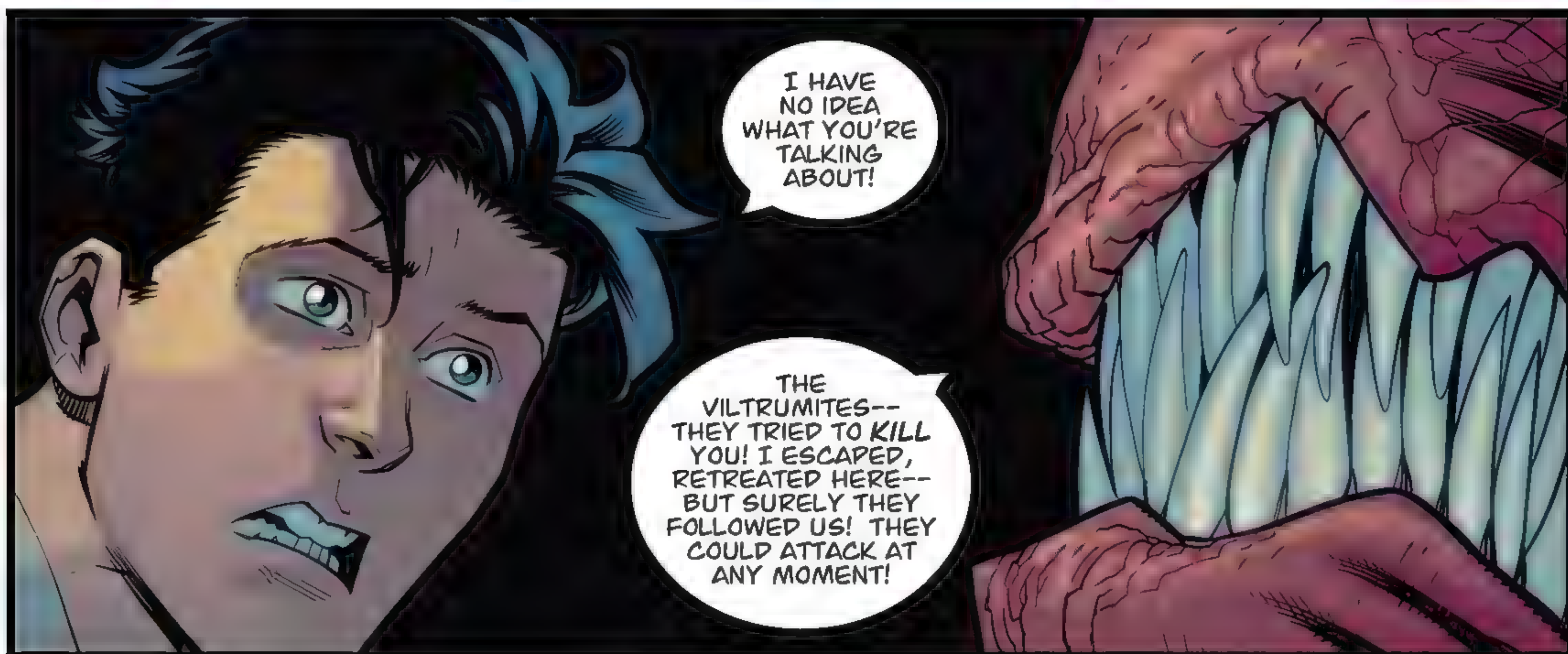




YOU'RE  
LOOKING  
MUCH  
BETTER.

MY FORM  
IS BUILT ANEW  
EACH TIME I  
TRANSFORM--  
ARE THEY HERE?!  
HAVE THEY  
STRUCK?!

WHAT  
KIND  
OF TIME  
DO WE  
HAVE?!



I HAVE  
NO IDEA  
WHAT YOU'RE  
TALKING  
ABOUT!

THE  
VILTRUMITES--  
THEY TRIED TO KILL  
YOU! I ESCAPED,  
RETREATED HERE--  
BUT SURELY THEY  
FOLLOWED US! THEY  
COULD ATTACK AT  
ANY MOMENT!

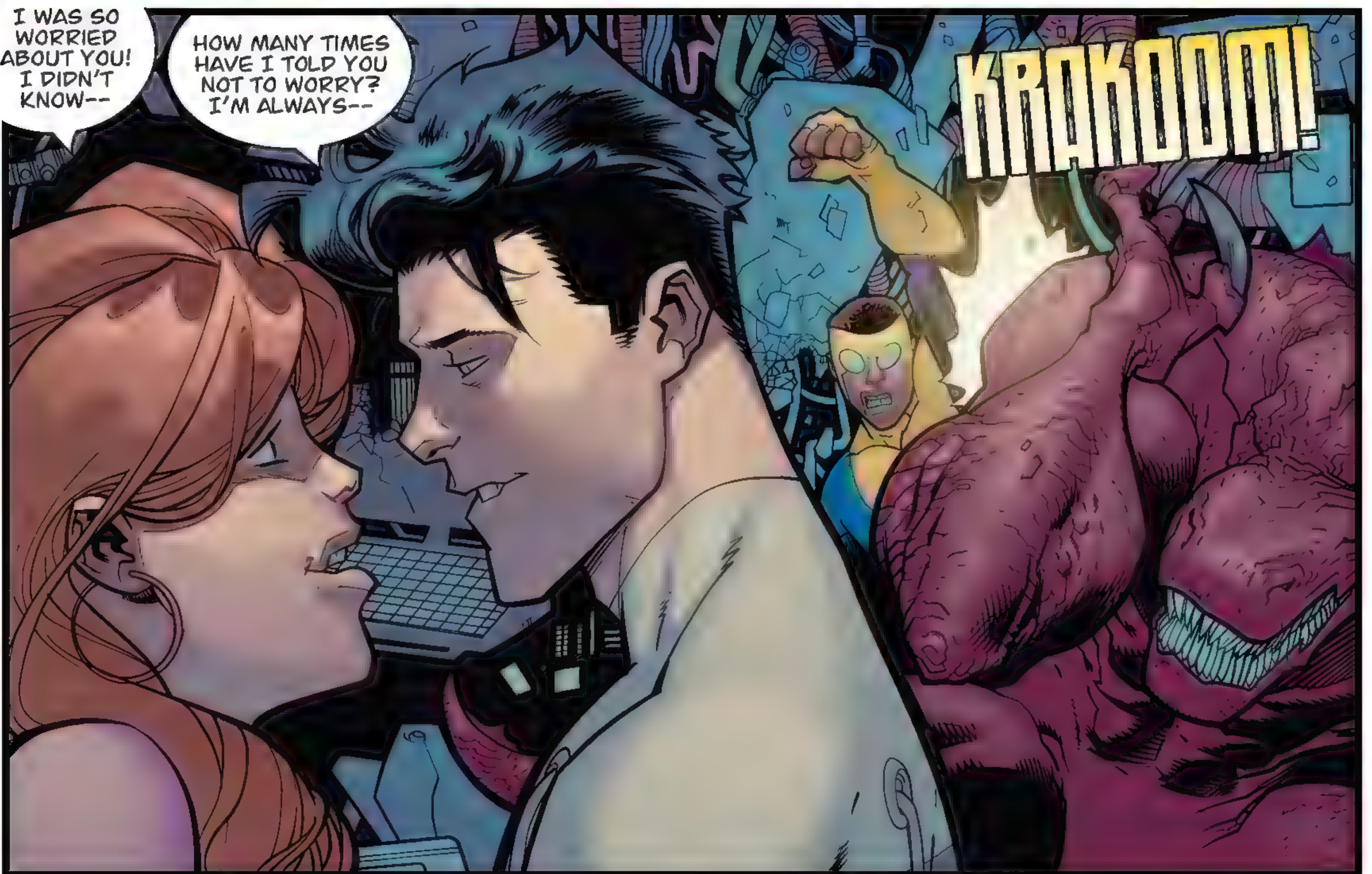
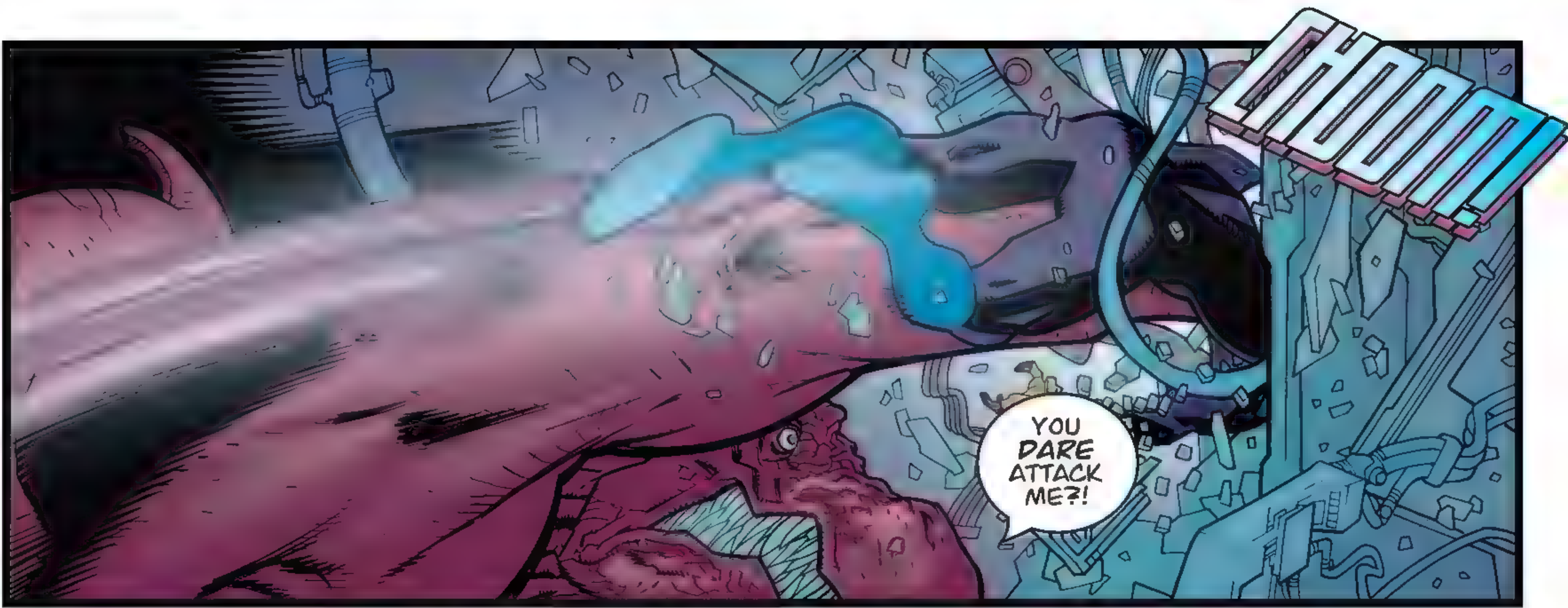




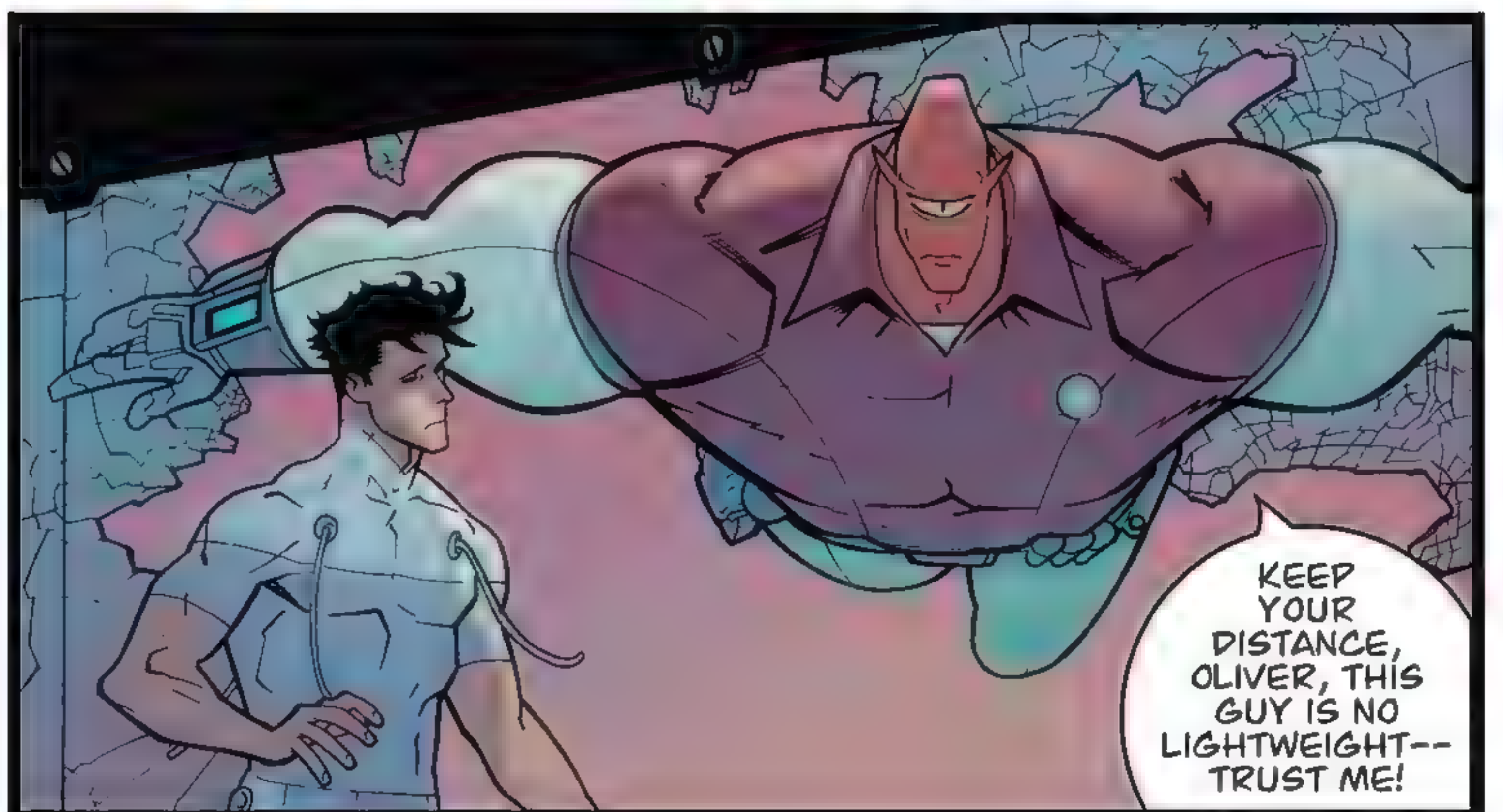
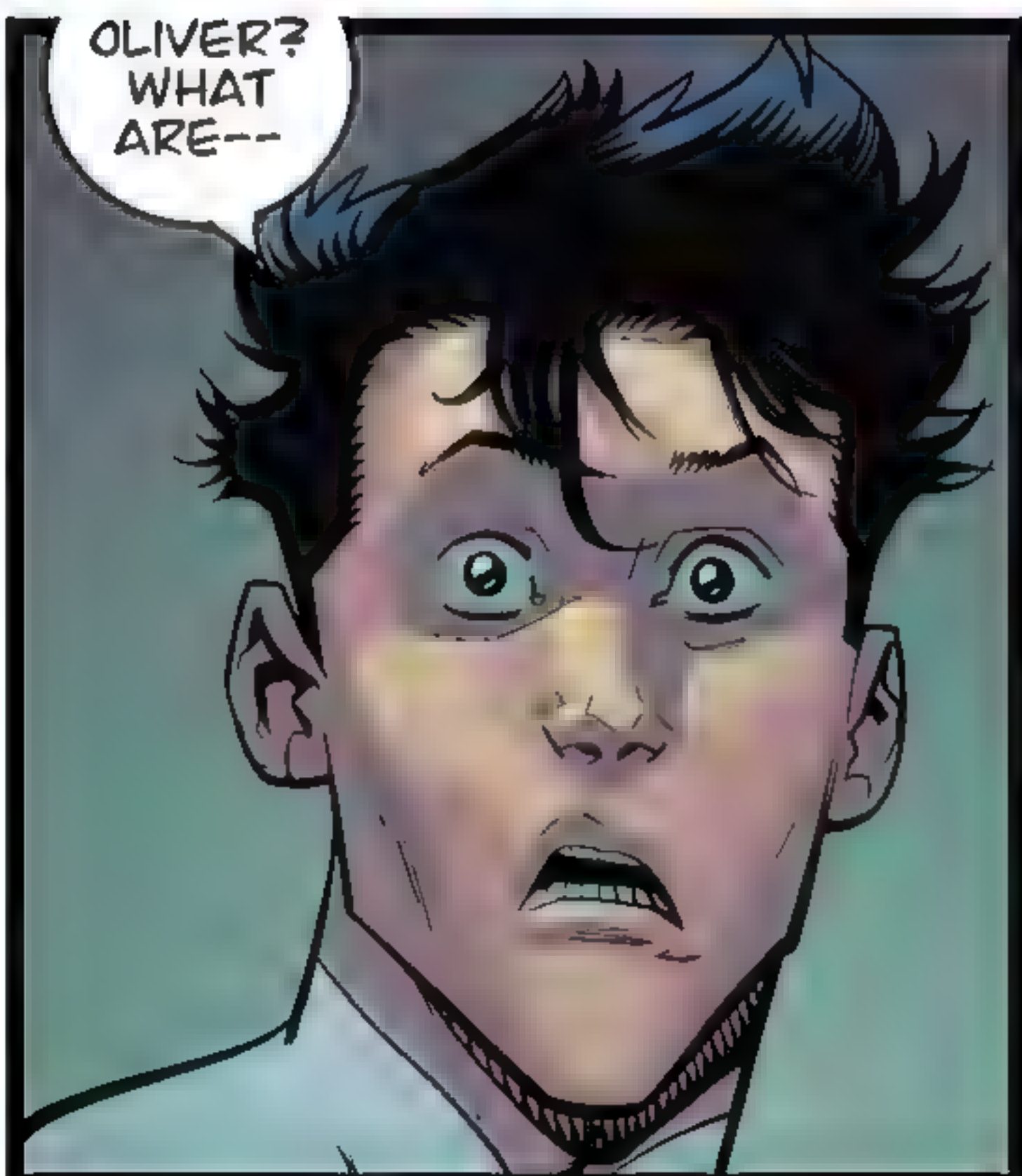














THE VILTRUMITES  
SEND **LESSER**  
AGENTS TO  
CONFRONT  
ME?!

I FIND  
THIS ASSAULT  
FROM MERE  
MINIONS AN  
**INSULT!**

WAIT!

WILL EVERYONE  
JUST **CALM DOWN?!  
THIS WASN'T AN  
ATTACK--AND  
DINOSAURUS IS ON  
OUR SIDE!**

PUT OLIVER  
DOWN, HE'S  
MY **BROTHER**,  
I CAN EXPLAIN  
ALL THIS--!

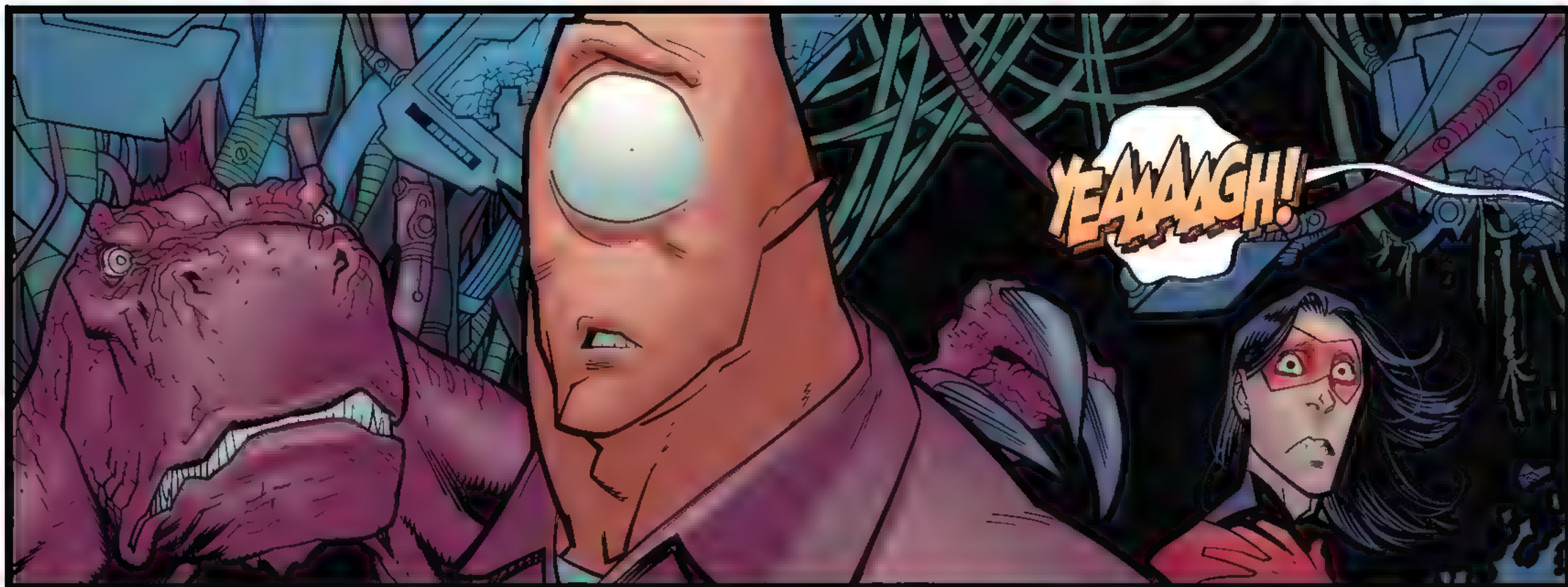
**KROOM!**

YOU  
HEARD  
HIM, LET  
THE BOY  
GO!!

YOU  
CAN'T--

DAMN IT--  
**STOP!!**











# CHAPTER TWO





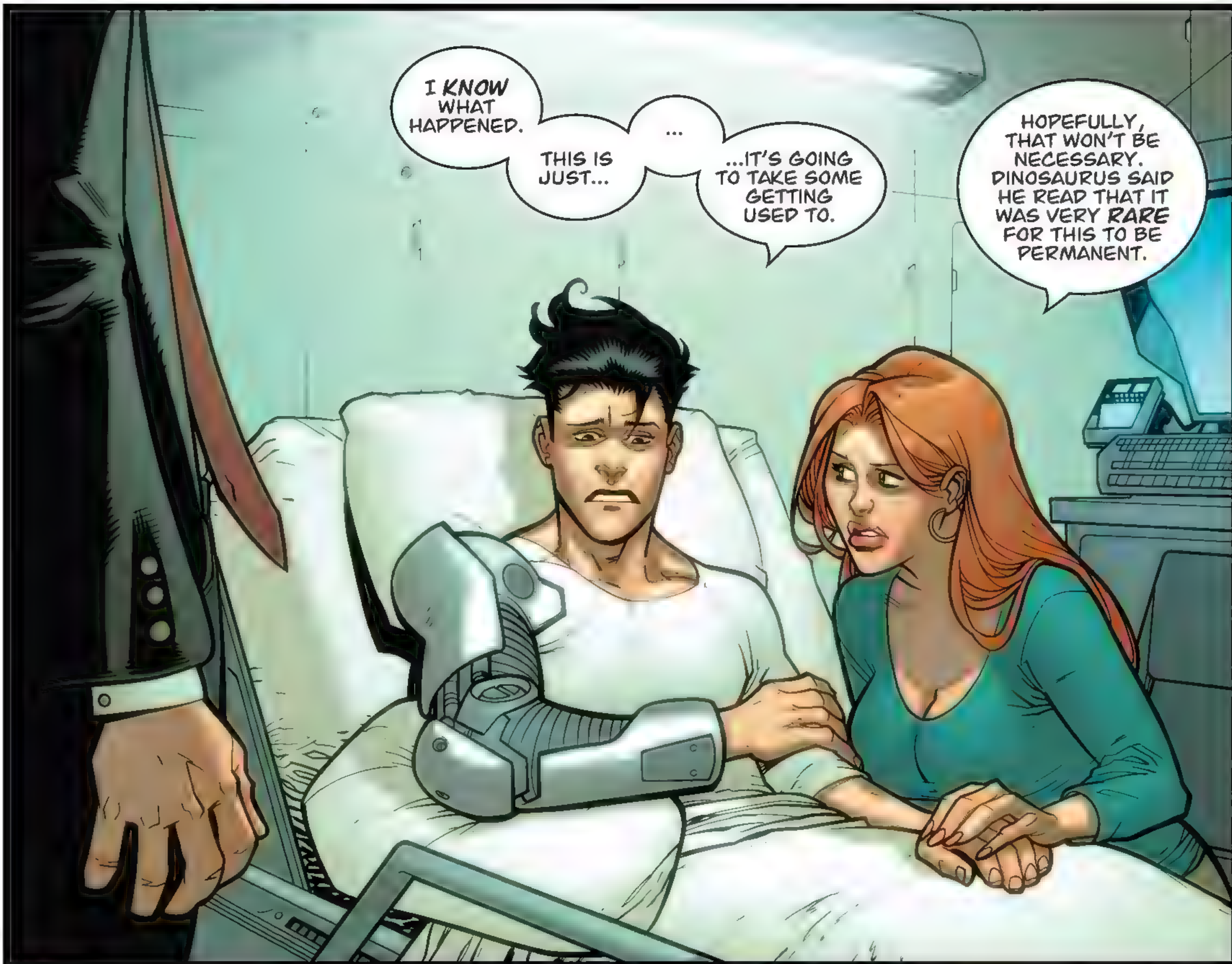


IT TOOK ELEVEN DIFFERENT SURGERIES TO RECONSTRUCT YOUR ARM SO THAT IT CAN HEAL PROPERLY.

THE SCOURGE VIRUS, AS IT'S BEEN EXPLAINED TO ME, SOMETIMES LEAVES SURVIVORS IN A PERIOD WHERE THEIR VILTRUMITE ABILITIES ARE SUSPENDED FOR A VARIABLE AMOUNT OF TIME--SOMETIMES PERMANENTLY.

THE PROBLEM IS THAT YOUR ABILITIES HAVEN'T LEFT YOU ALL AT ONCE... YOUR SUPER STRENGTH WAS STILL INTACT, YOUR INVULNERABILITY GREATLY DIMINISHED.

SO WHEN YOU HIT ALLEN--



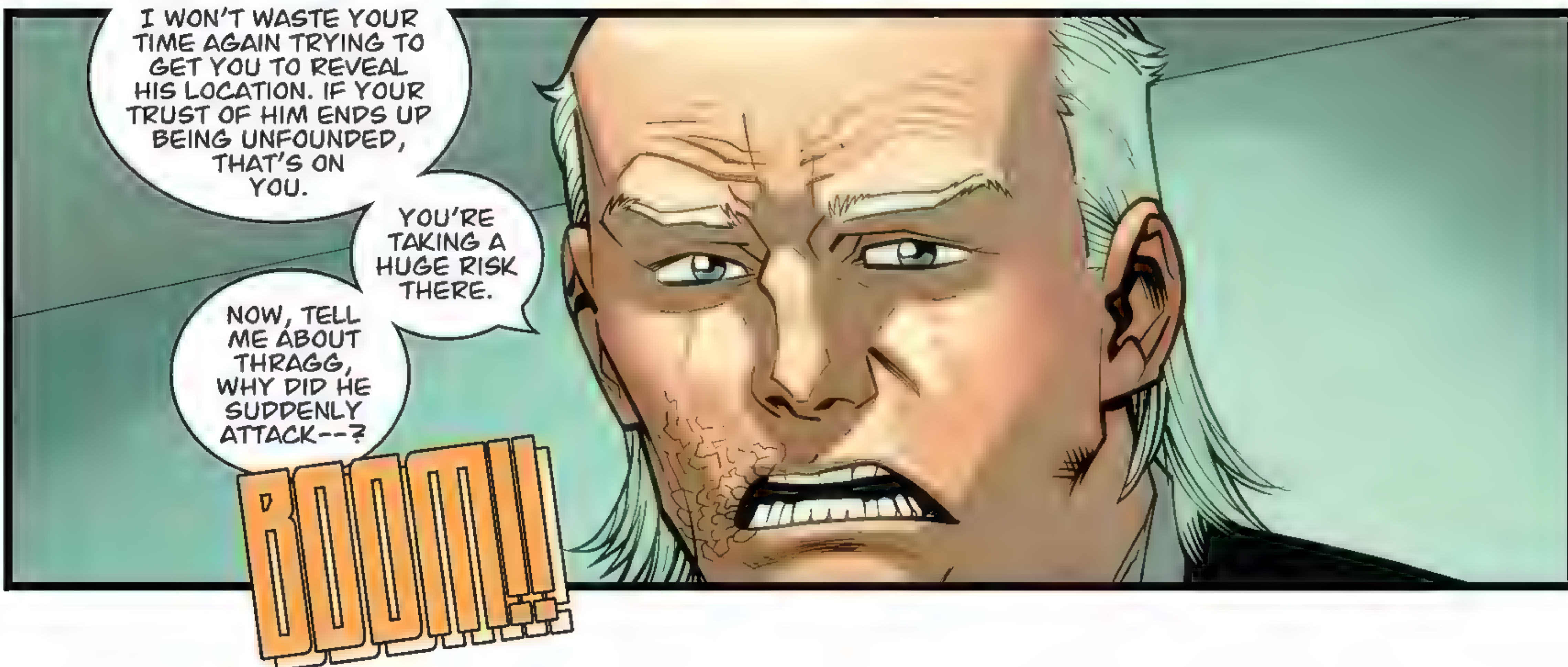
I KNOW WHAT HAPPENED.

THIS IS JUST...

...

...IT'S GOING TO TAKE SOME GETTING USED TO.

HOPEFULLY, THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY. DINOSAURUS SAID HE READ THAT IT WAS VERY RARE FOR THIS TO BE PERMANENT.



I WON'T WASTE YOUR TIME AGAIN TRYING TO GET YOU TO REVEAL HIS LOCATION. IF YOUR TRUST OF HIM ENDS UP BEING UNFOUNDED, THAT'S ON YOU.

YOU'RE TAKING A HUGE RISK THERE.

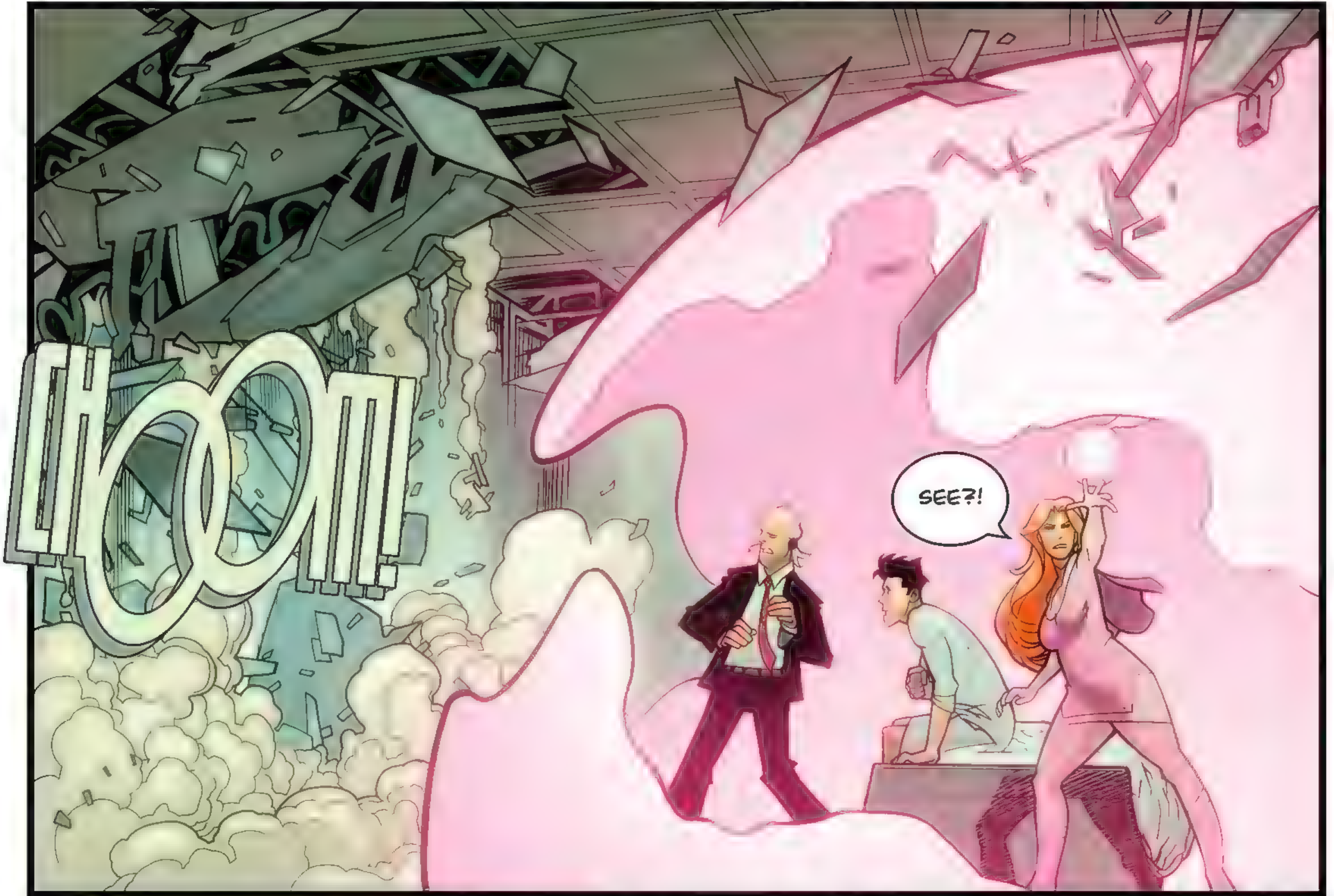
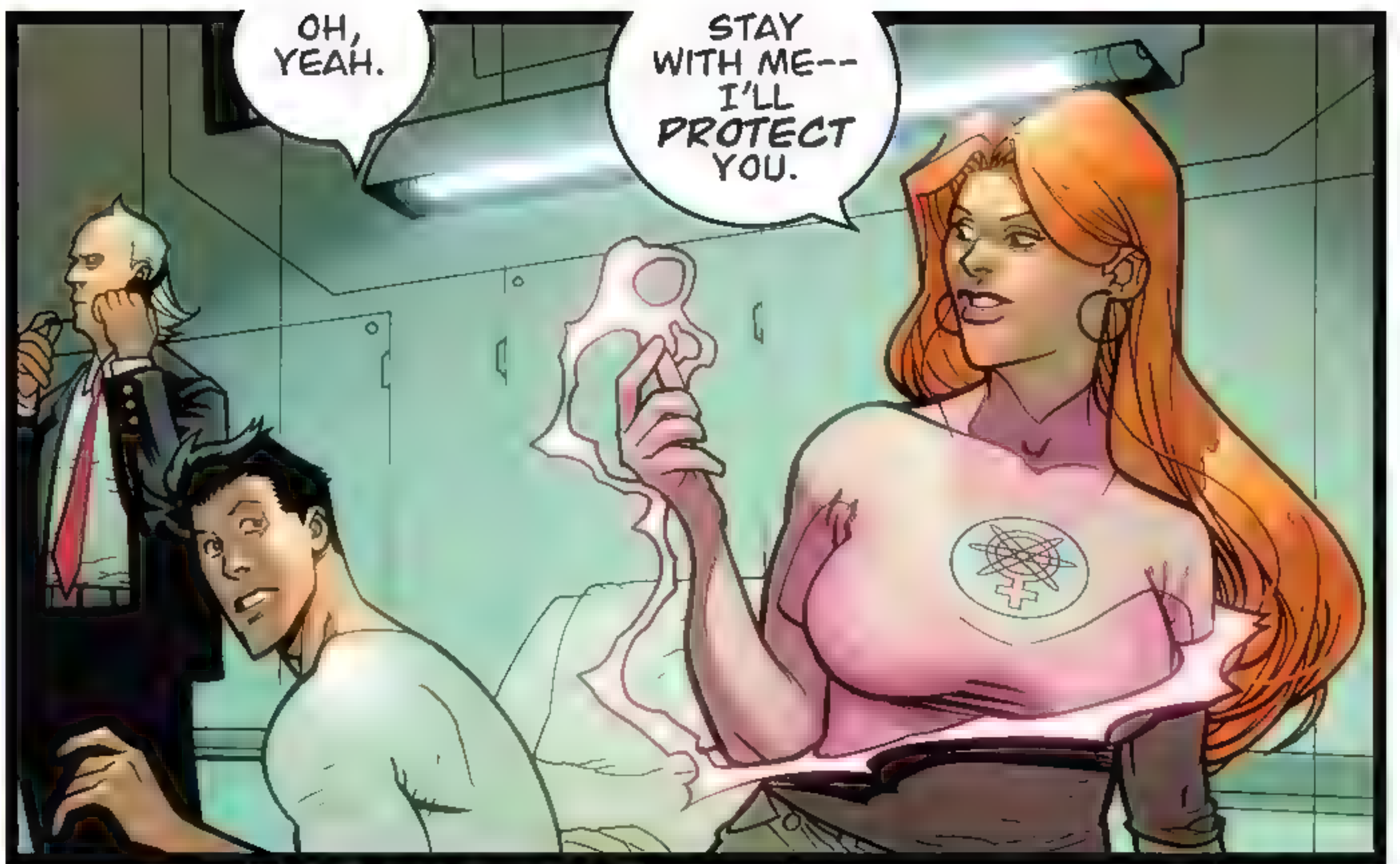
NOW, TELL ME ABOUT THRAGG, WHY DID HE SUDDENLY ATTACK--?

**BOOM!!!**

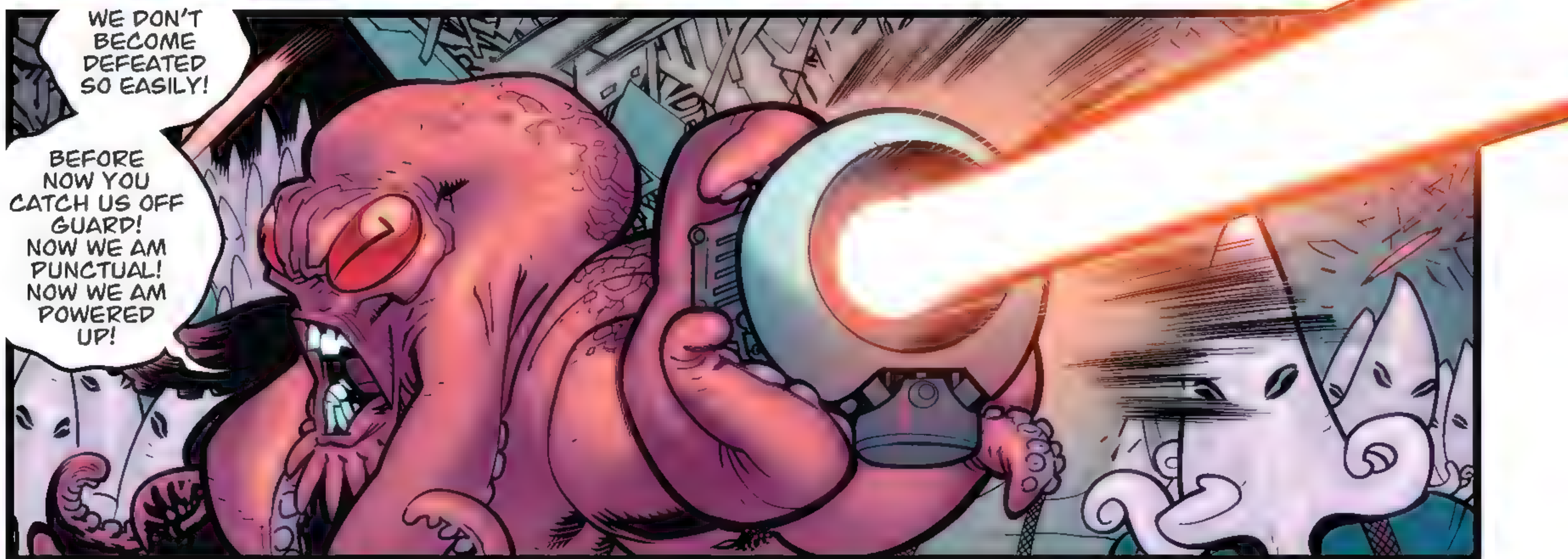




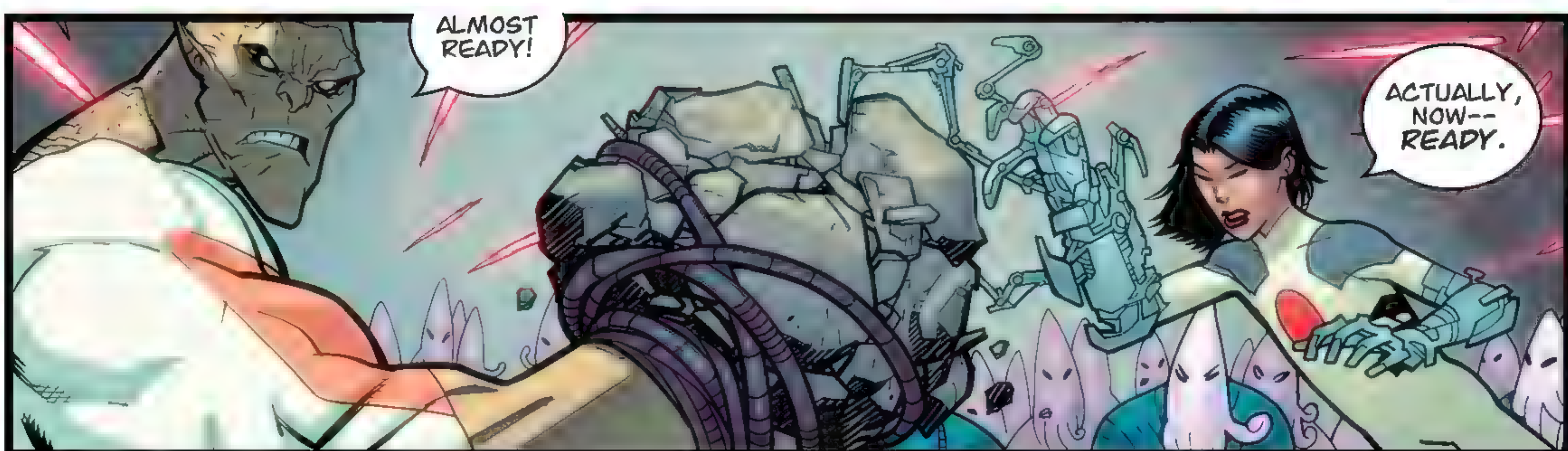
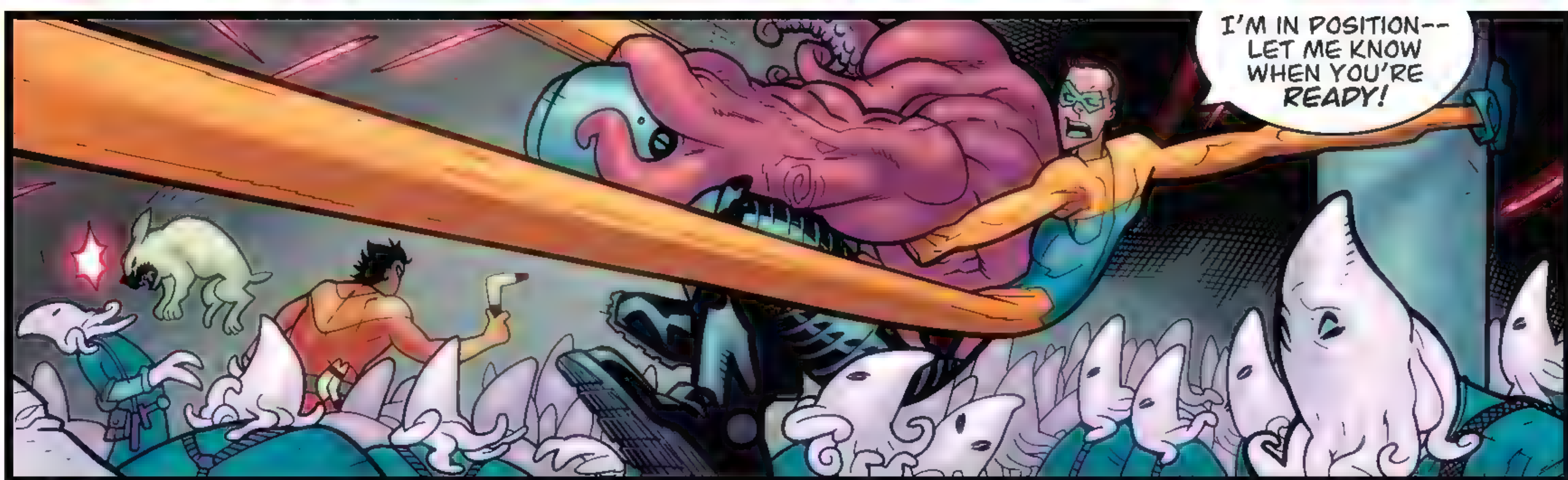
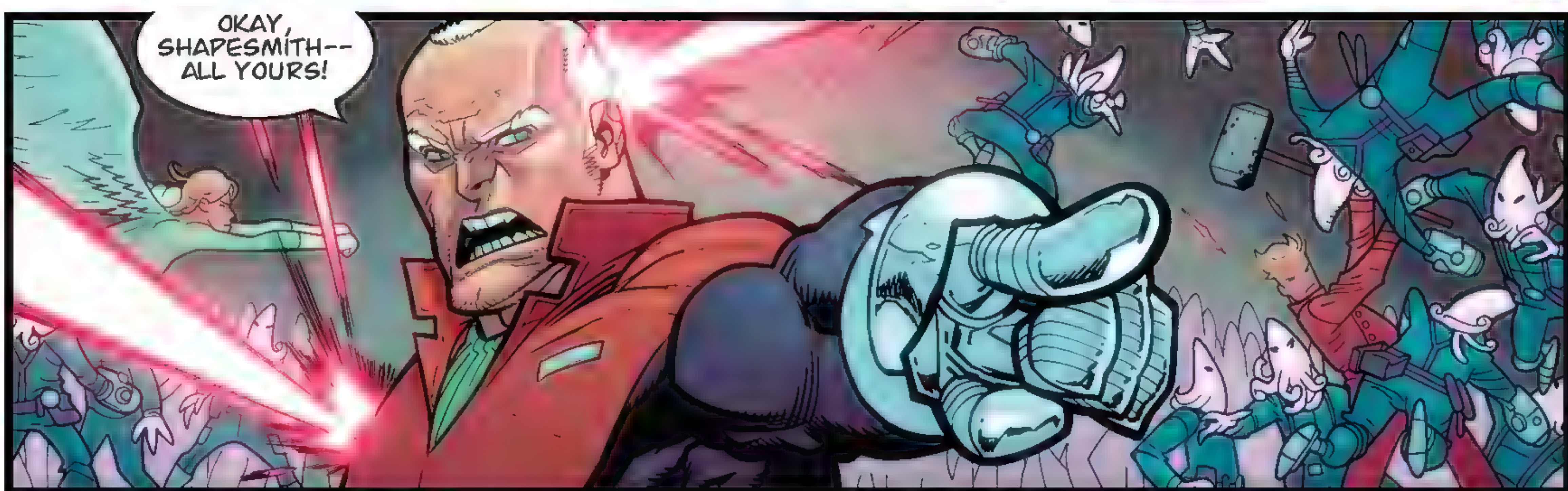
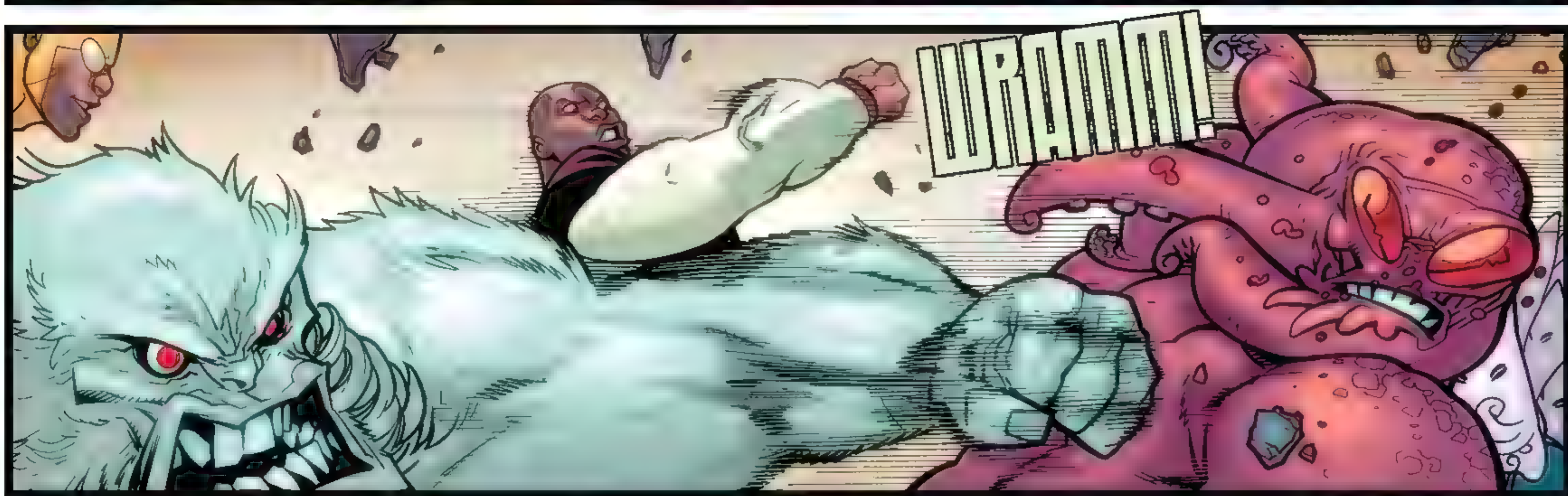
















CAPES AND  
WOLF C.O.R.P.S.  
STAND DOWN.  
THE THREAT  
HAS BEEN  
NEUTRALIZED.

DON'T THINK  
WE EVEN  
NEEDED THE FULL  
GUARDIANS  
ROSTER...  
NICE.





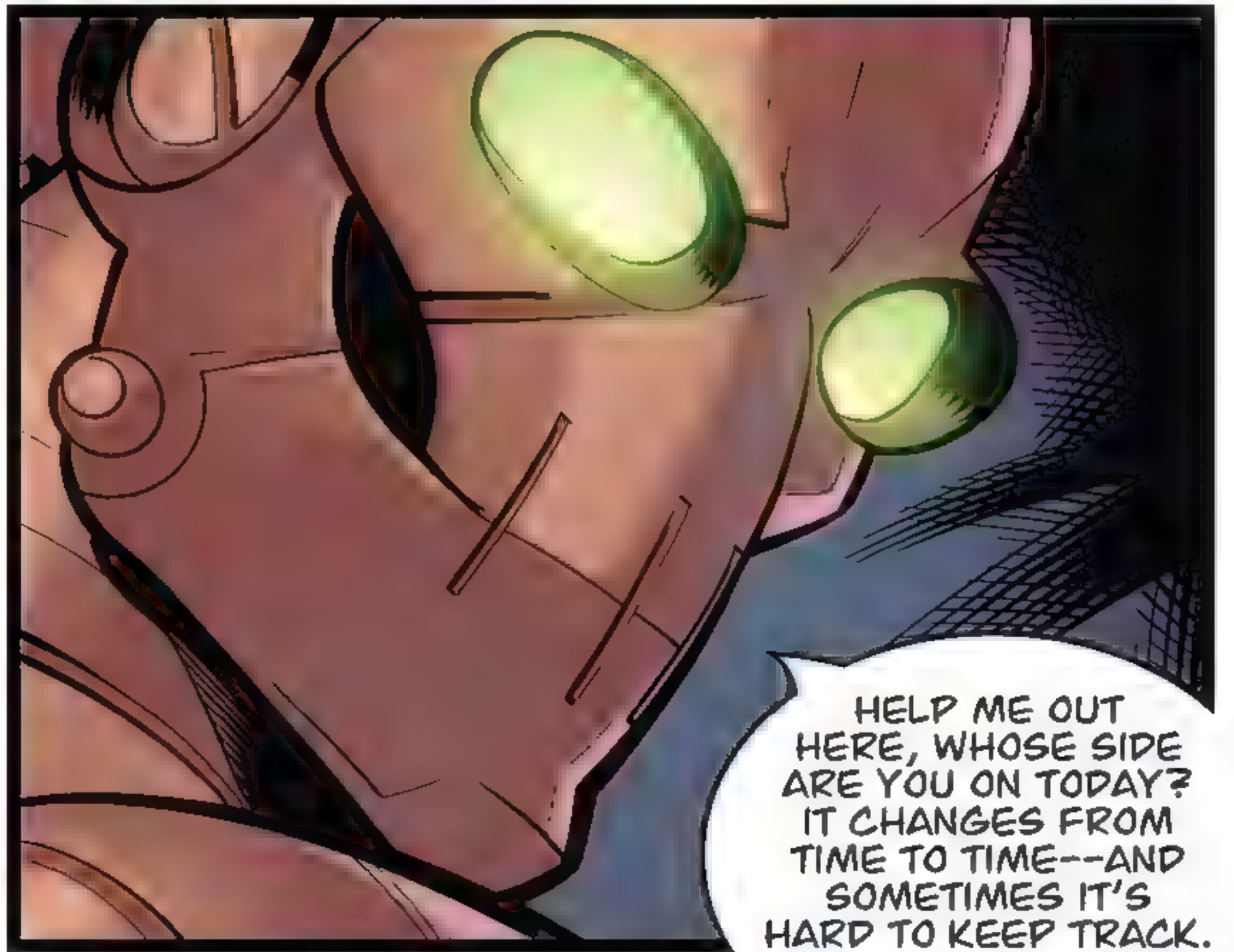
ALL TAKEN CARE OF, SIR. WE'LL HAVE ALL THE SQUIDMEN ROUNDED UP WITHIN THE HOUR.

I CAN SEE THAT. NICE JOB, BRIT.



IMPRESSIVE WORK THERE, MONSTER GIRL.

YEAH, WHERE WERE YOU? THUMBS GET SORE--OR WAS IT HARD TO CONCENTRATE OVER YOUR STUPID VIDEO GAME?



HELP ME OUT HERE, WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON TODAY? IT CHANGES FROM TIME TO TIME--AND SOMETIMES IT'S HARD TO KEEP TRACK.



DAMN IT!

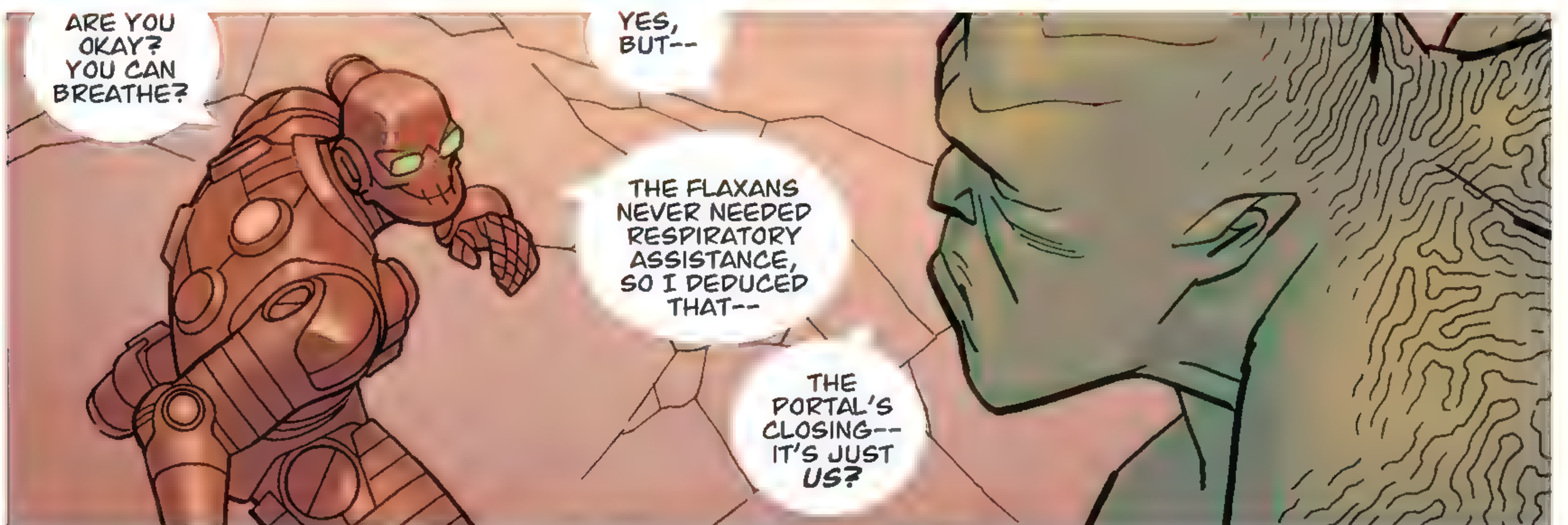
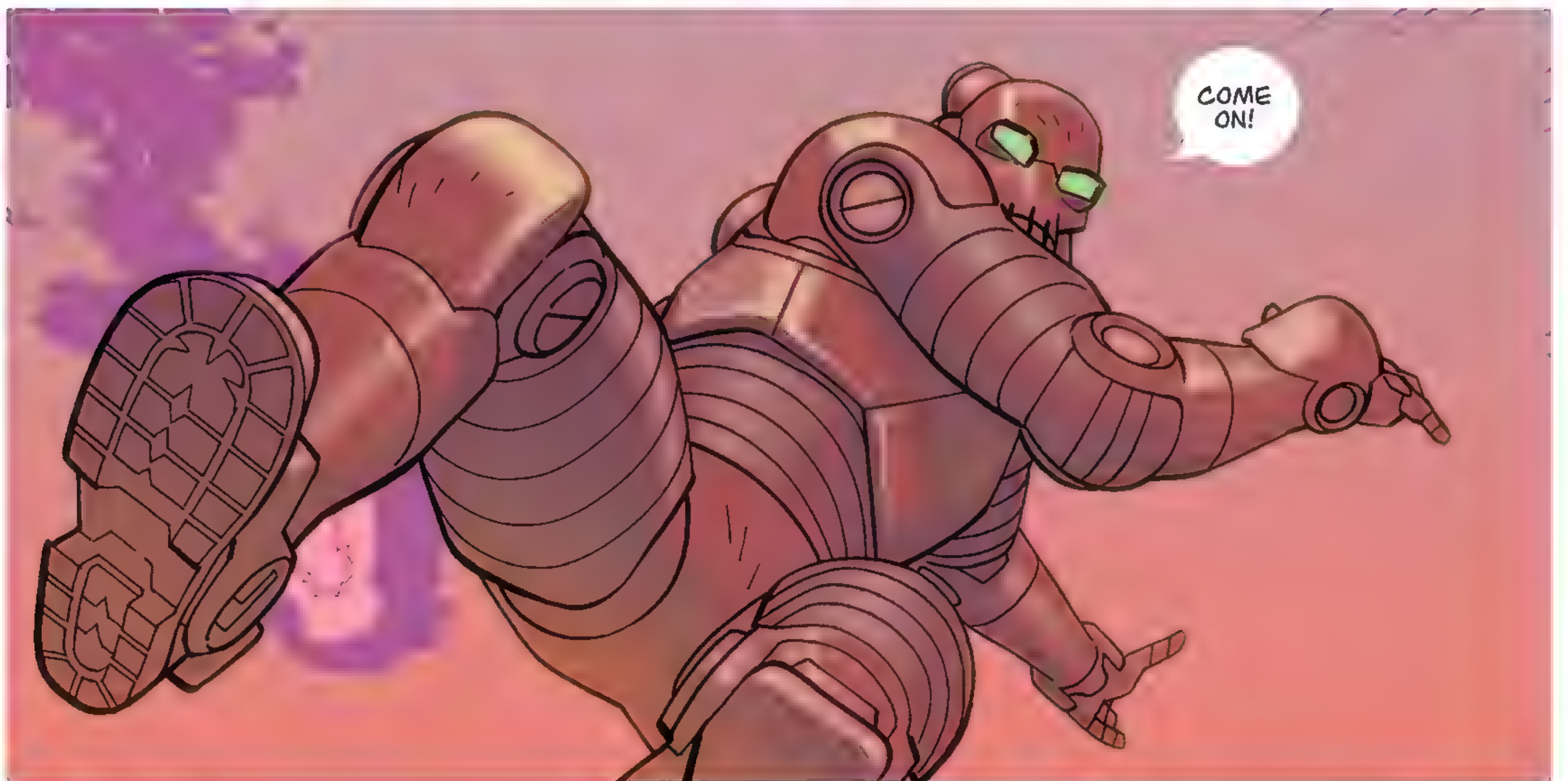
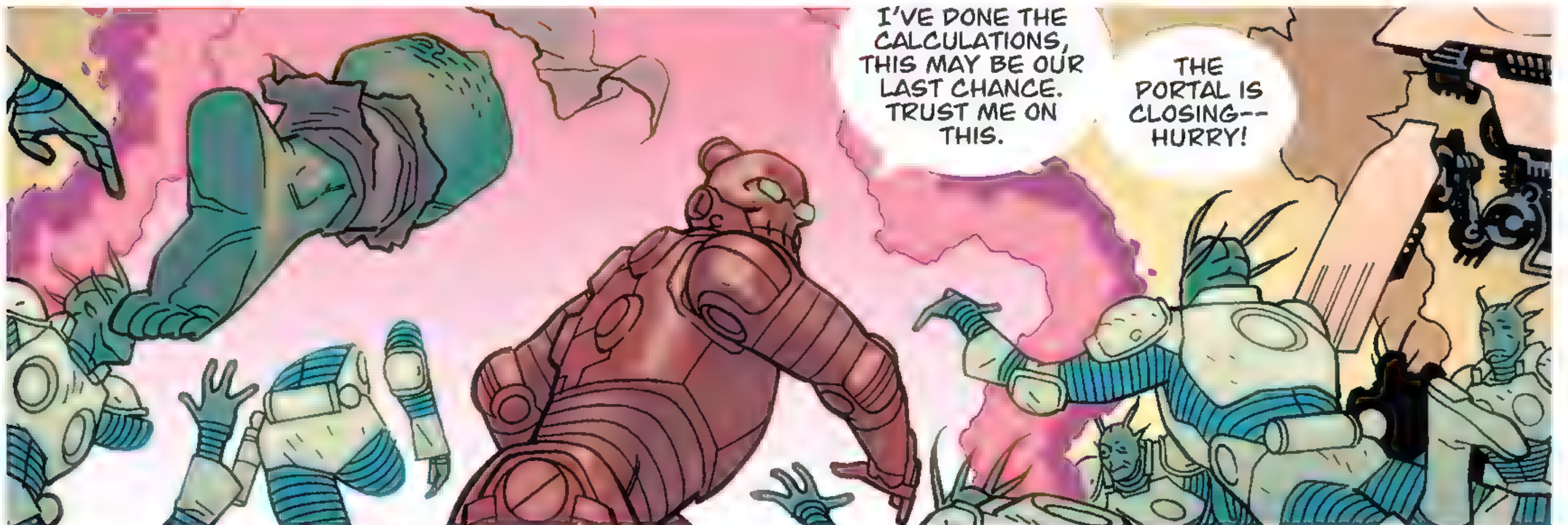
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU GUYS?!



YOU TWO USED TO BE CLOSE.

WHAT HAPPENED?

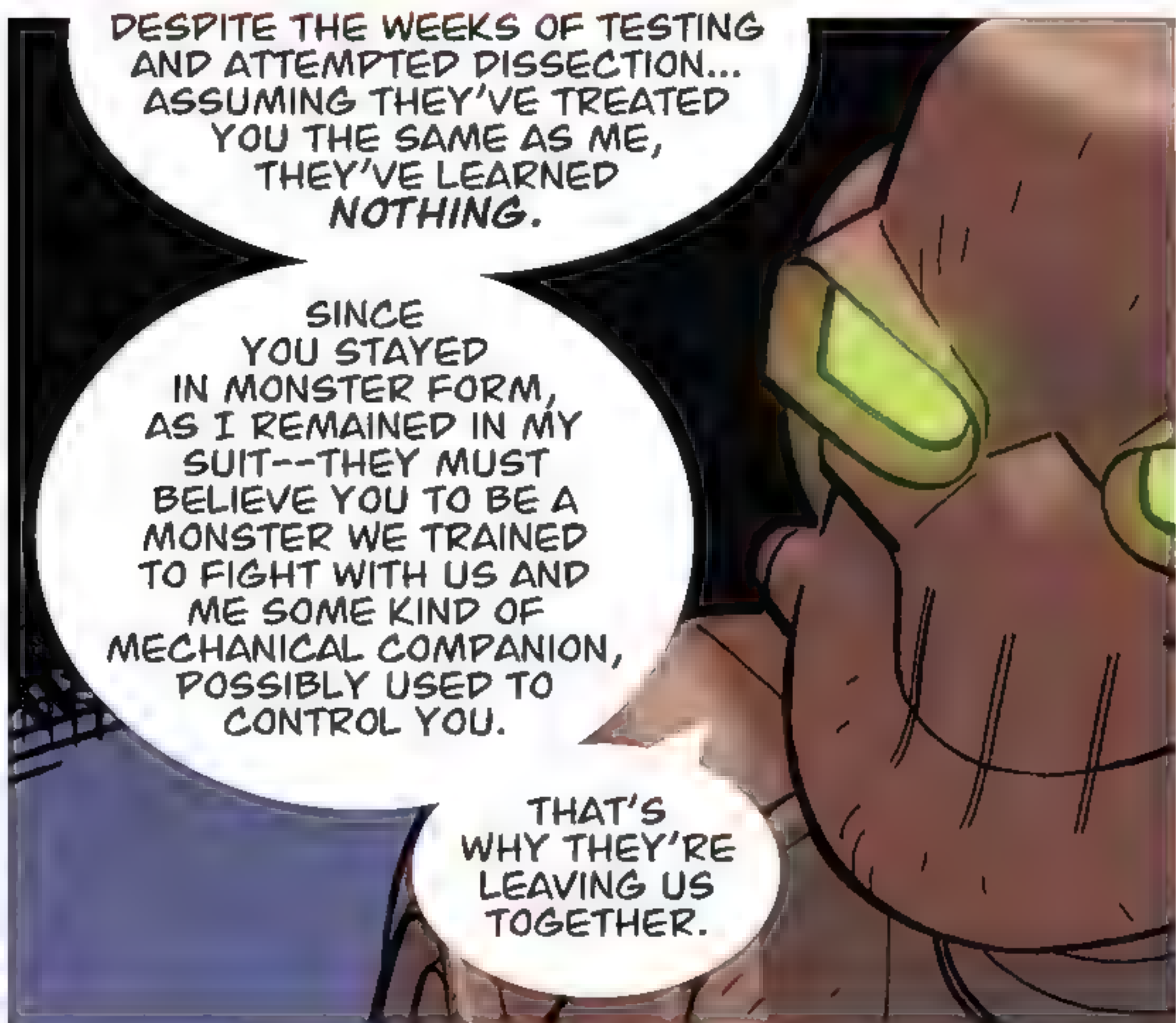
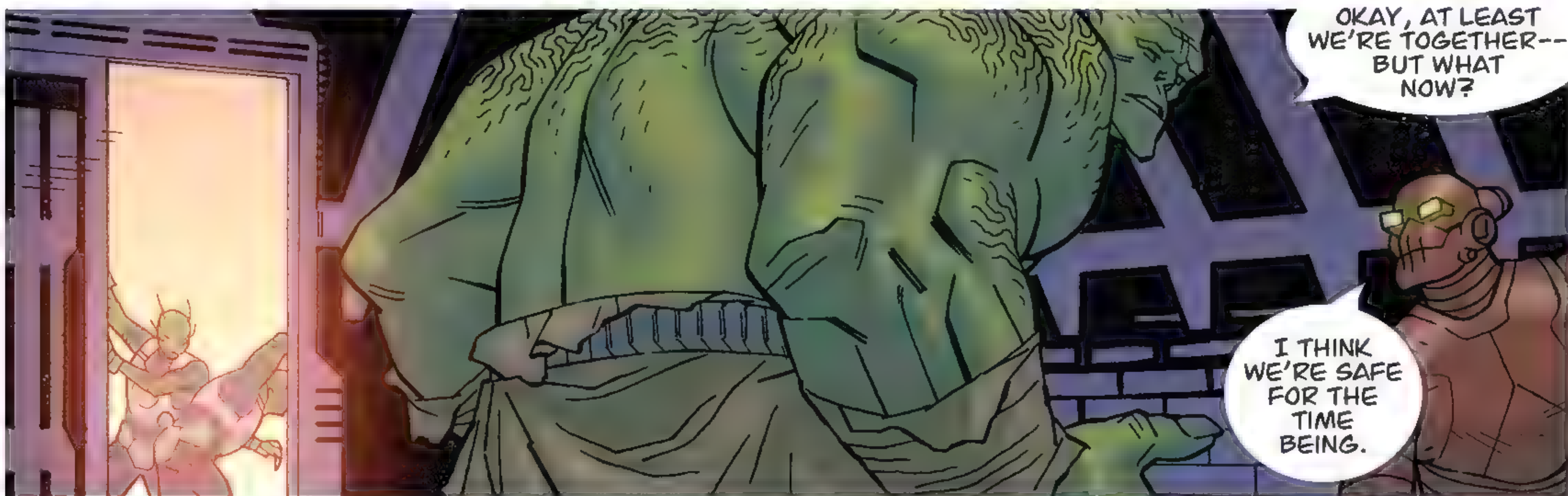
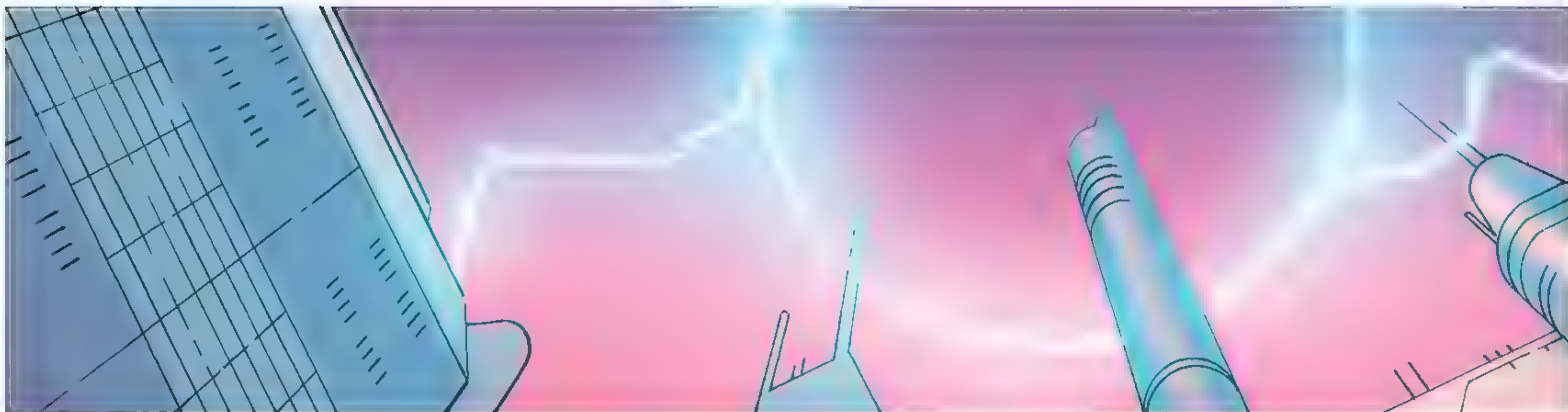










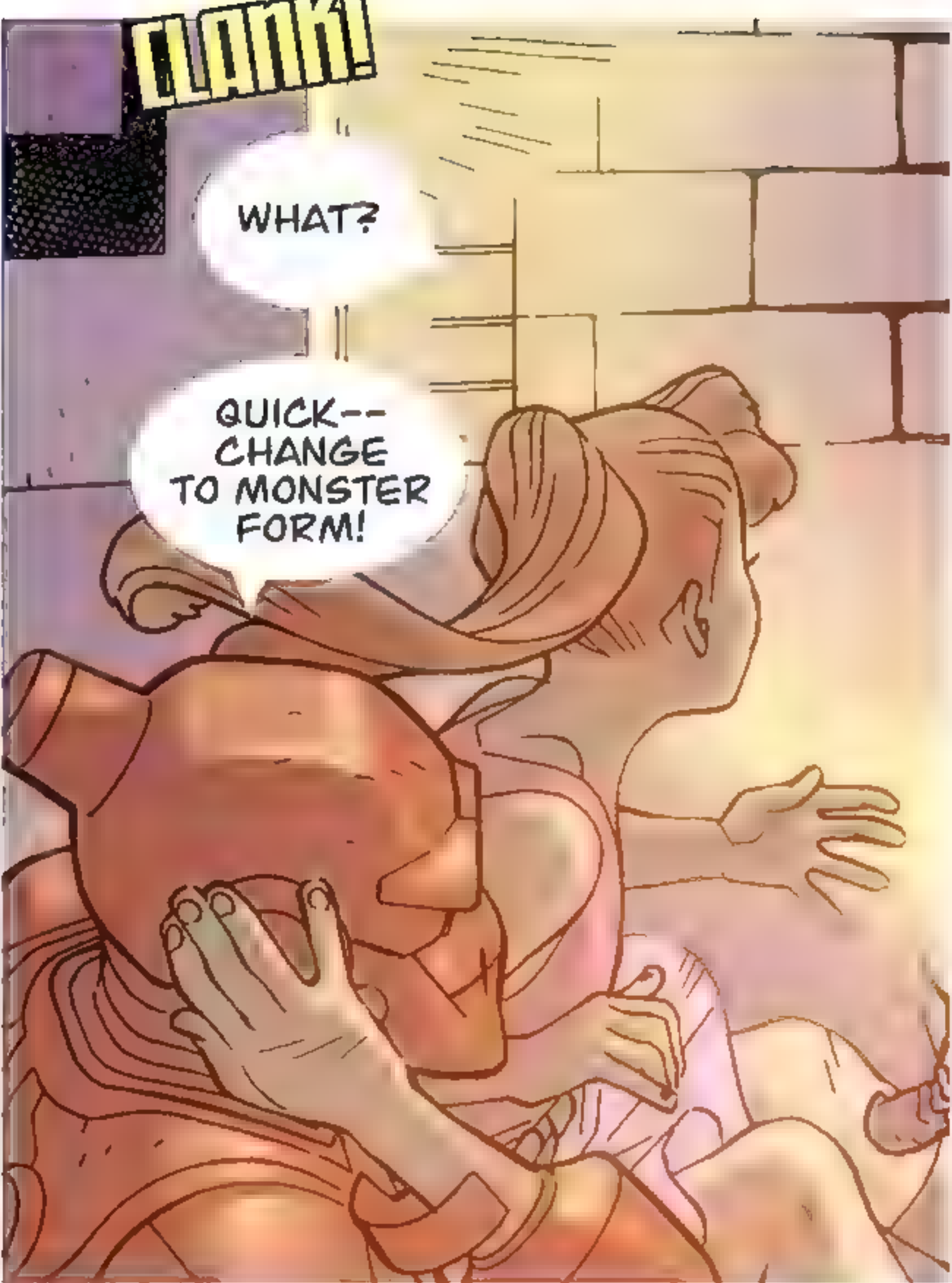






IT'S BEEN DAYS SINCE YOU'VE EATEN. JUST TRY IT... IT'S NOT SO BAD.

THE SMELL, OH, GOD--THEY SMELL WORSE THAN THEY LOOK!



CLANK!

WHAT?  
QUICK--  
CHANGE  
TO MONSTER  
FORM!



CRAP!  
WHAT ARE  
THEY--



ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶିତ  
କରିବା  
ସମ୍ଭବନା



SLAM!

ନି ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶିତ  
ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶିତ କରା  
ଗଲା

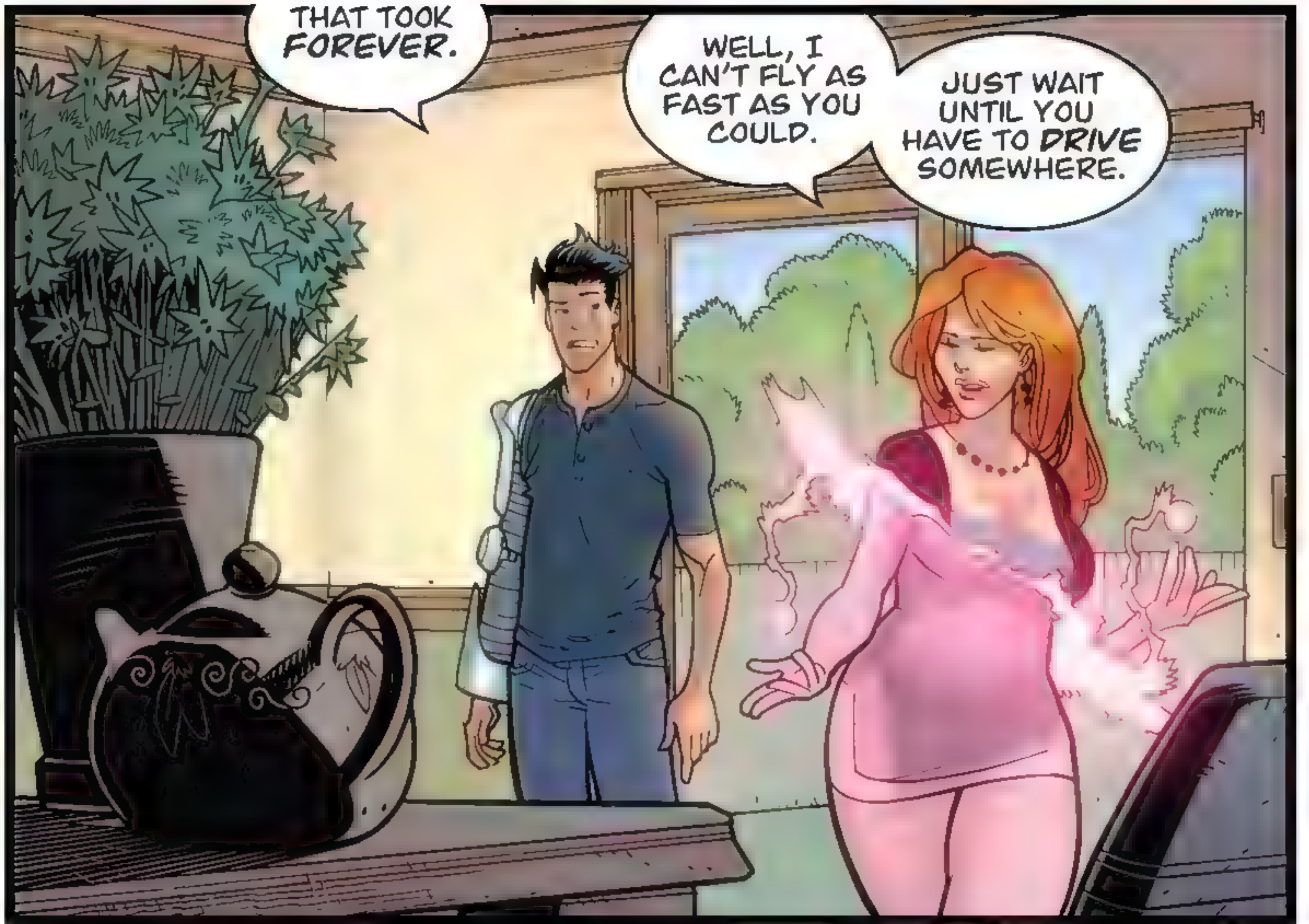
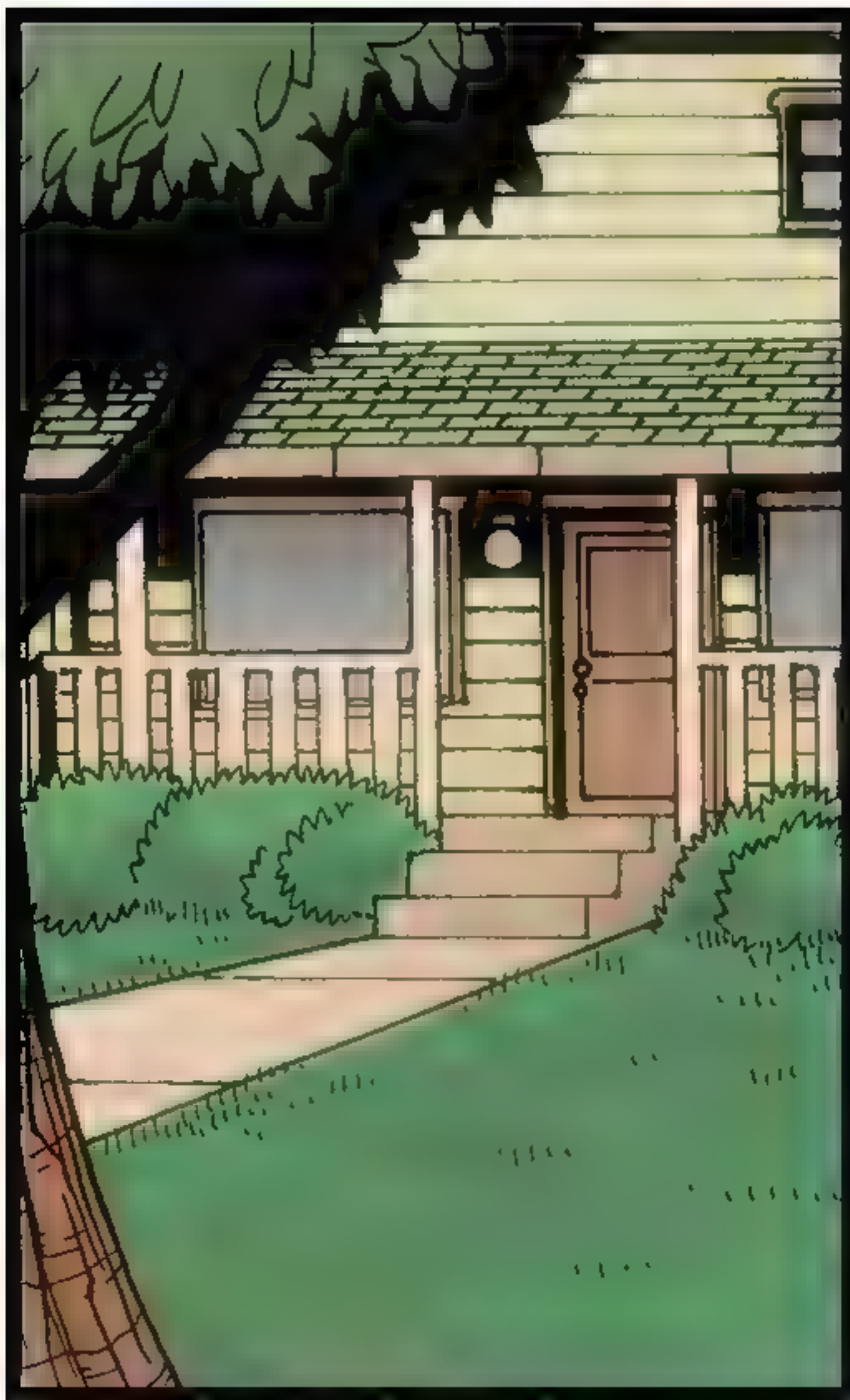
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ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶିତ  
EEK!

WHAT'S HIS  
PROBLEM?

WELL, I'M ONLY  
UNDERSTANDING PART  
OF WHAT HE'S SAYING--  
BUT IT APPEARS HE  
EXPECTS YOU TO  
TRY AND EAT HIM.

I THINK  
THEY WERE  
FEEDING  
HIM TO YOU.

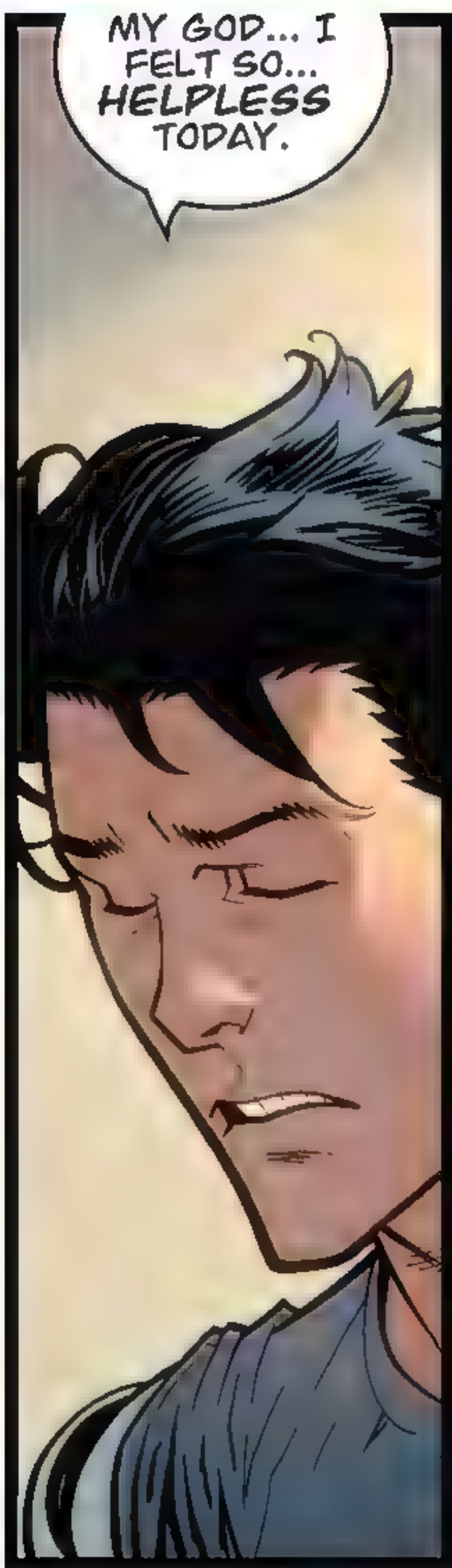




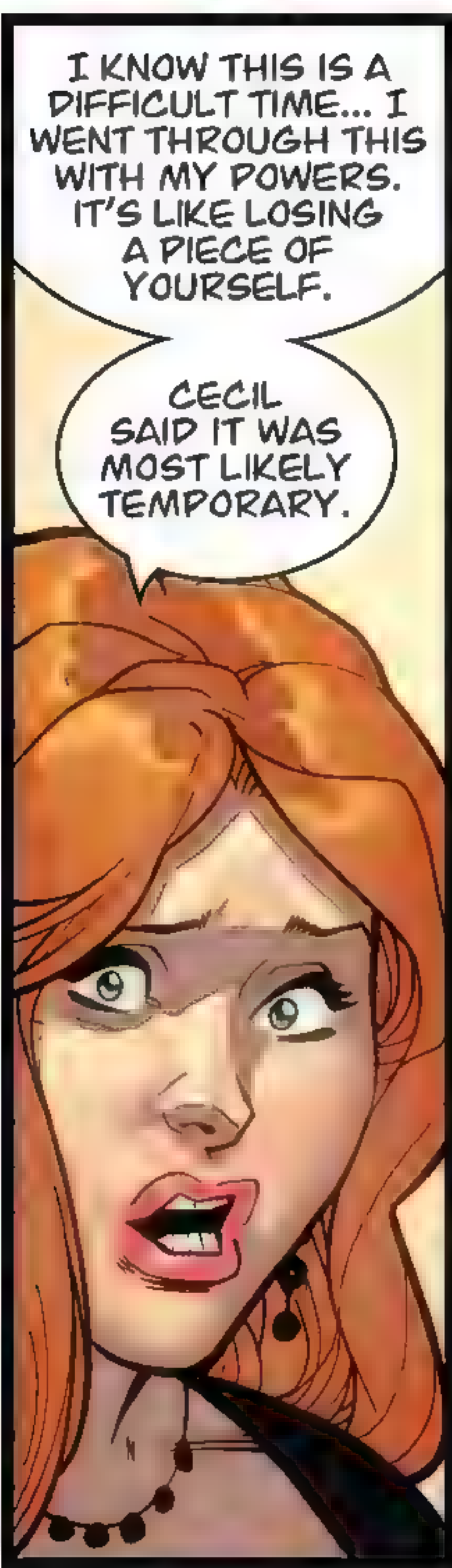
THAT TOOK FOREVER.

WELL, I CAN'T FLY AS FAST AS YOU COULD.

JUST WAIT UNTIL YOU HAVE TO DRIVE SOMEWHERE.

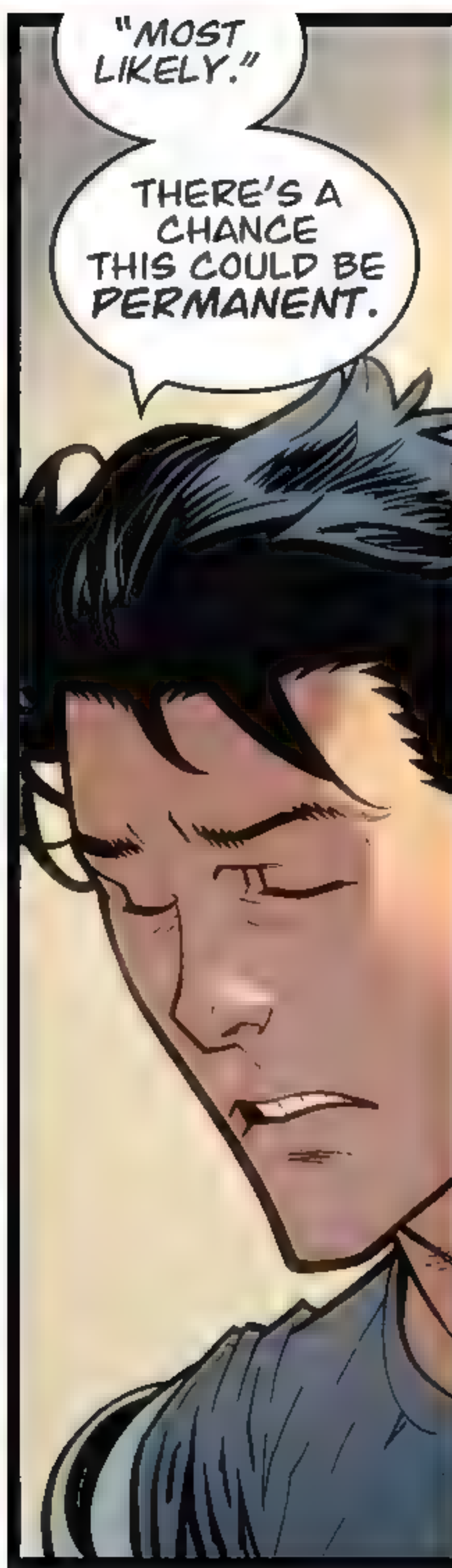


MY GOD... I FELT SO... HELPLESS TODAY.



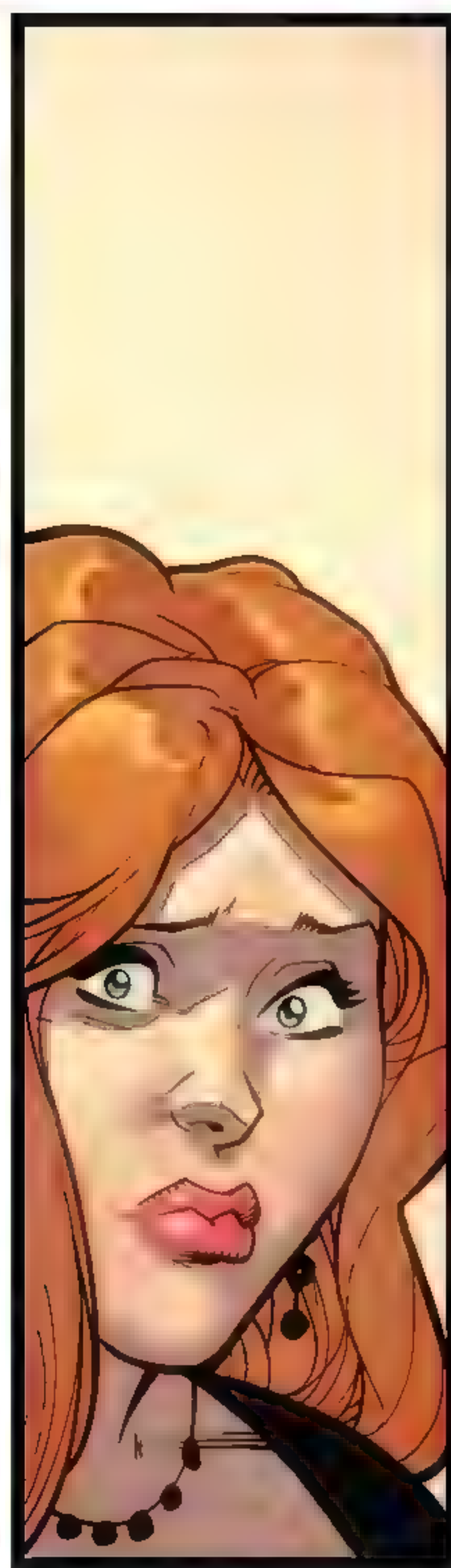
I KNOW THIS IS A DIFFICULT TIME... I WENT THROUGH THIS WITH MY POWERS. IT'S LIKE LOSING A PIECE OF YOURSELF.

CECIL SAID IT WAS MOST LIKELY TEMPORARY.

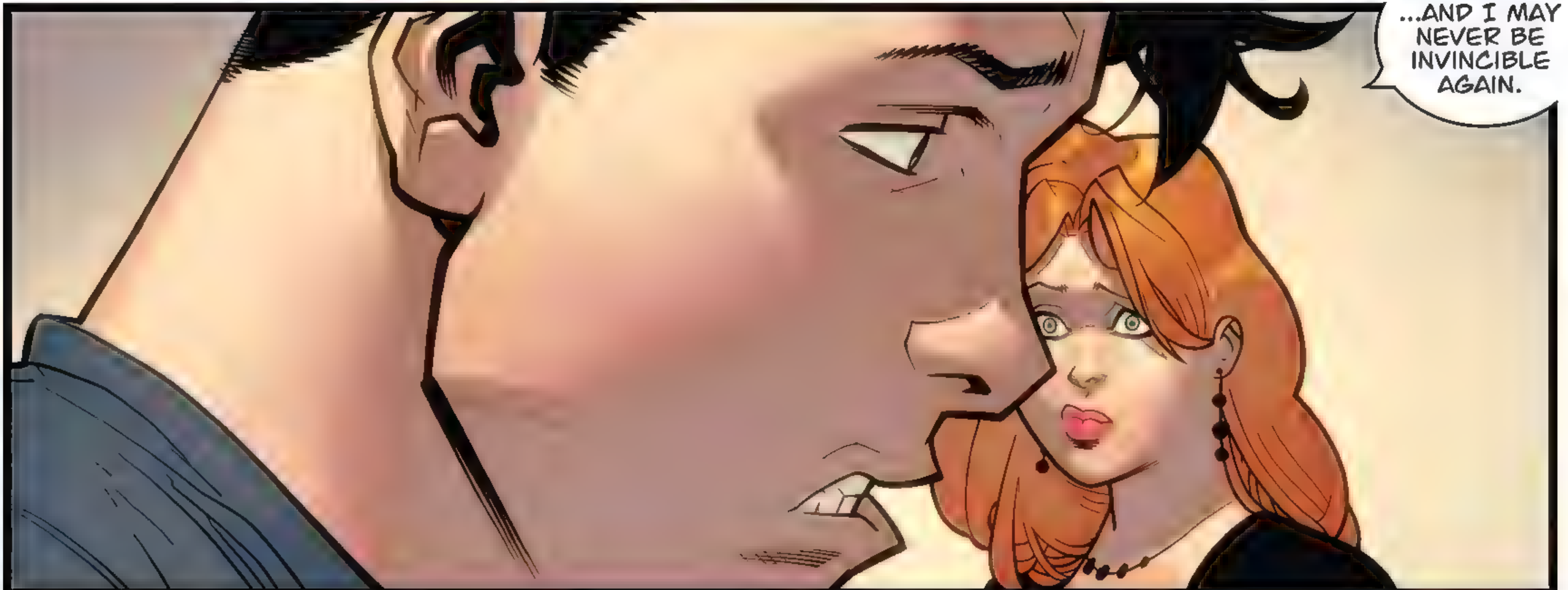


"MOST LIKELY."

THERE'S A CHANCE THIS COULD BE PERMANENT.



I'M NOT INVINCIBLE...



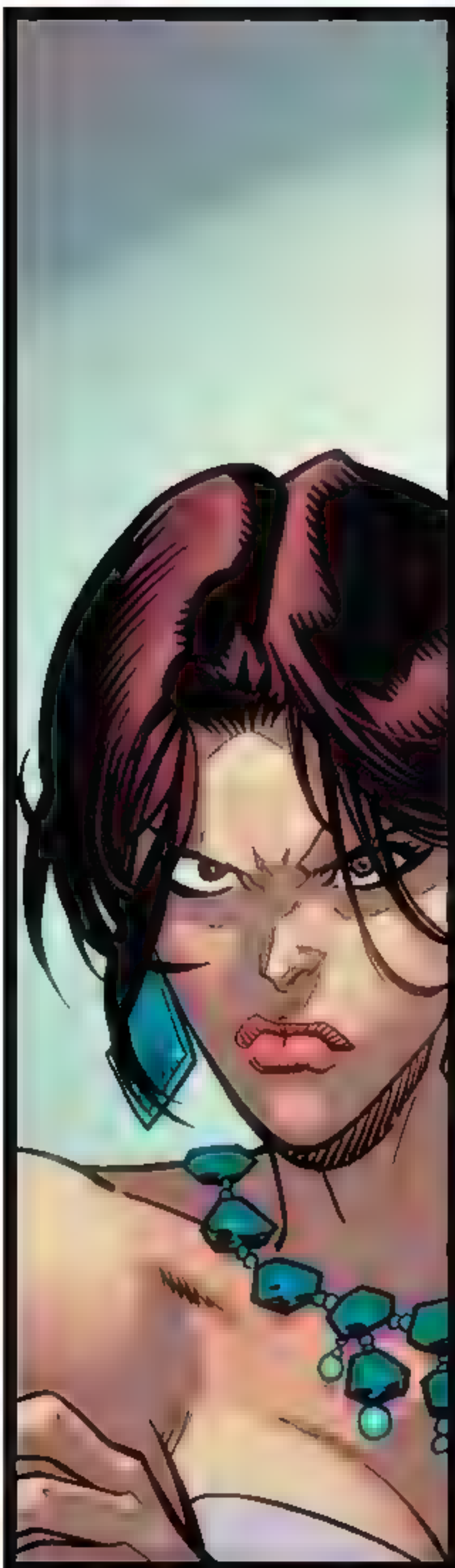
...AND I MAY NEVER BE INVINCIBLE AGAIN.



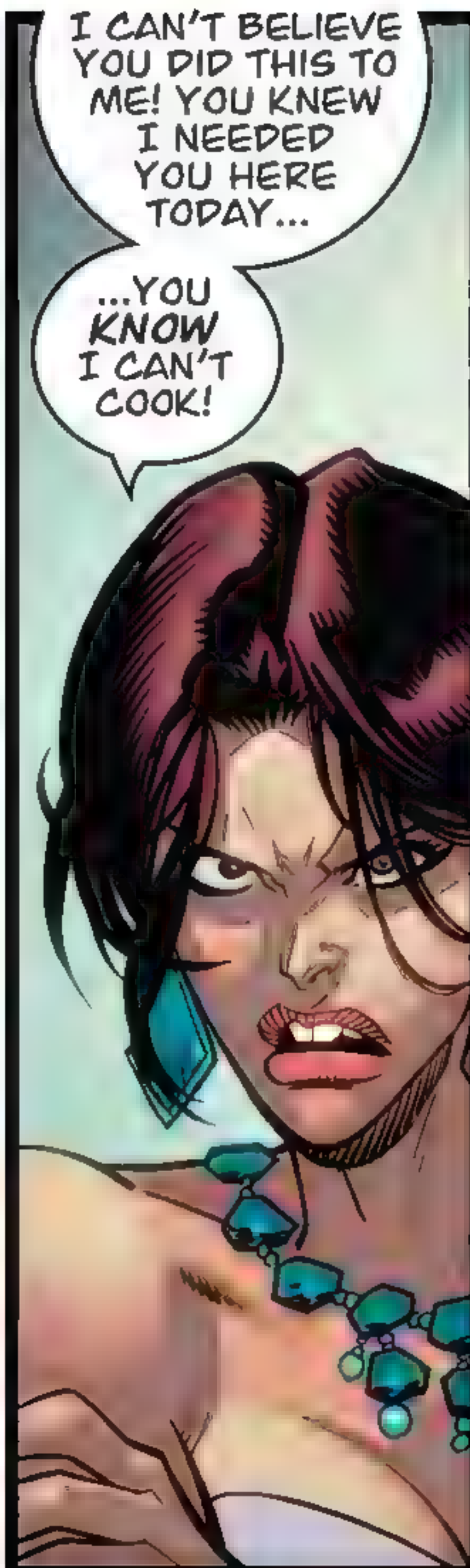
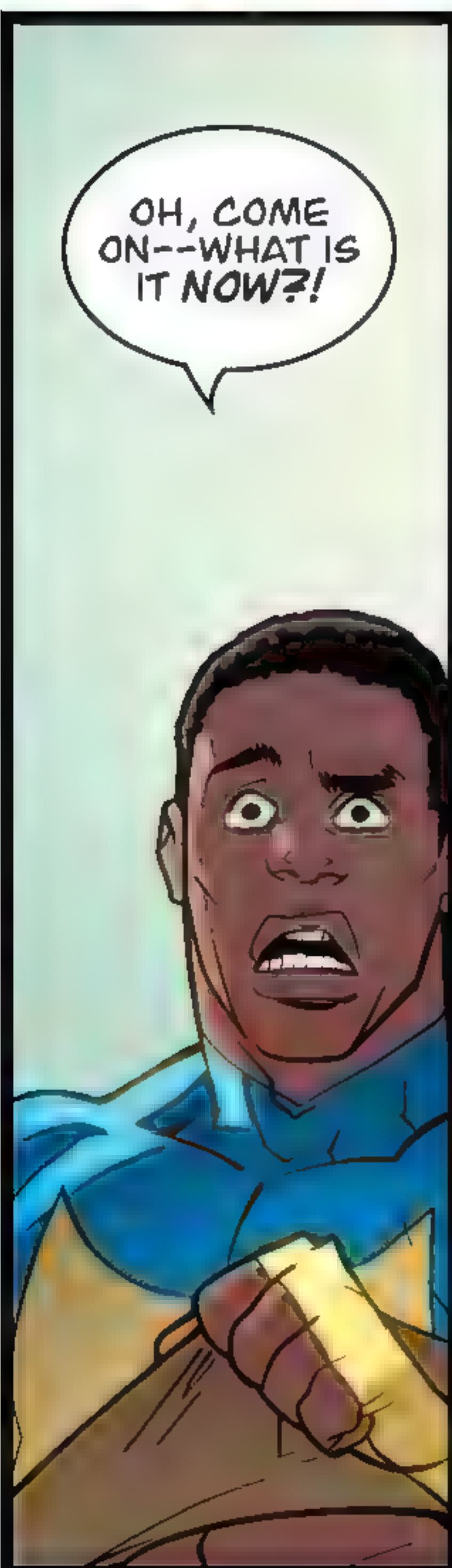


SORRY, SORRY. WE TOOK THE GUY OUT PRETTY QUICKLY, BUT WE ALL HAD TO HANG AROUND AND SUPERVISE THEM BEING TAKEN INTO CUSTODY.

Y'KNOW... TO MAKE SURE HE DIDN'T BREAK FREE AND KILL A BUNCH OF PEOPLE... IT'S IMPORTANT STUFF.

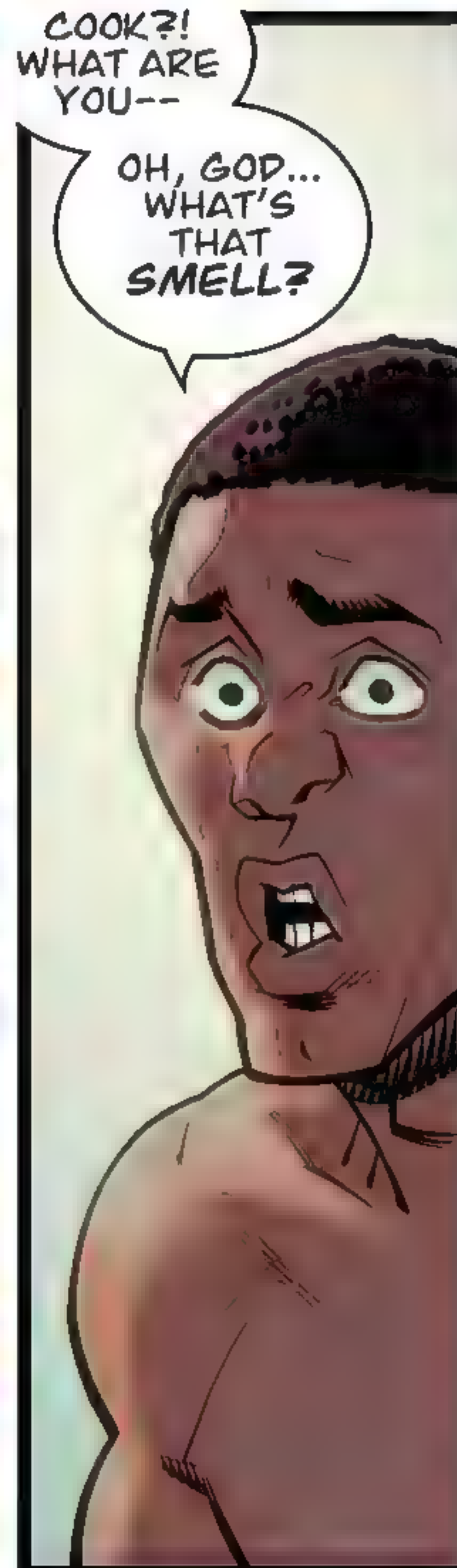


OH, COME ON--WHAT IS IT NOW?!



I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU DID THIS TO ME! YOU KNEW I NEEDED YOU HERE TODAY...

...YOU KNOW I CAN'T COOK!



COOK?! WHAT ARE YOU--

OH, GOD... WHAT'S THAT SMELL?



NOT BEING HERE BECAUSE YOU'RE FIGHTING SOME JERK IS ONE THING-- BUT YOU TOTALLY FORGOT?!

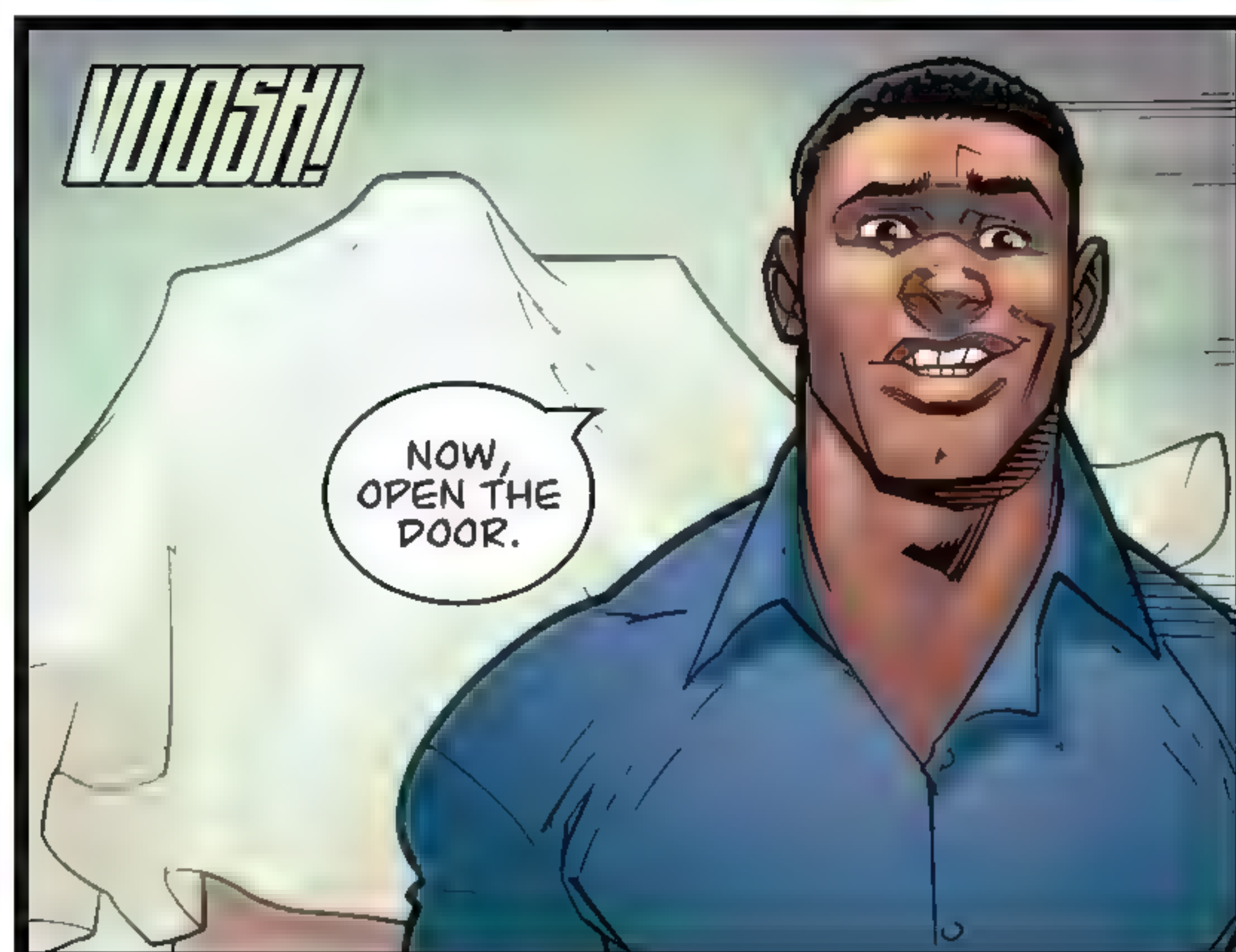
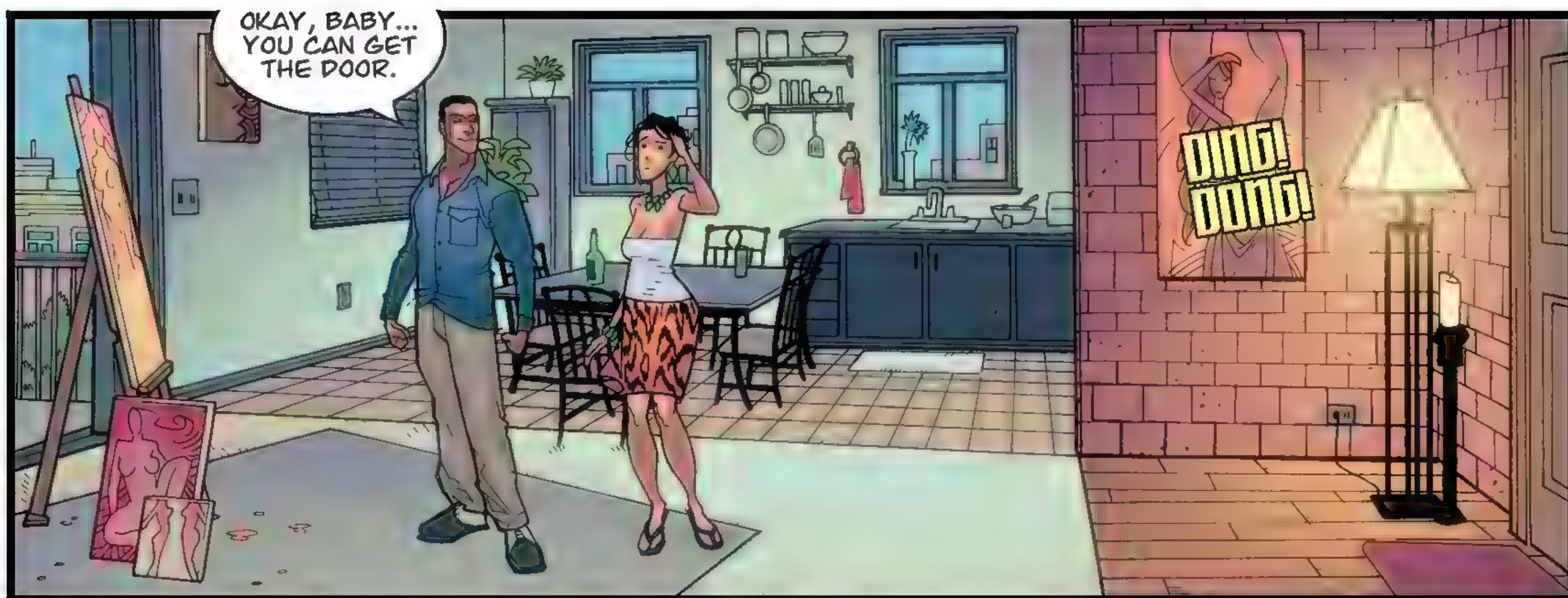
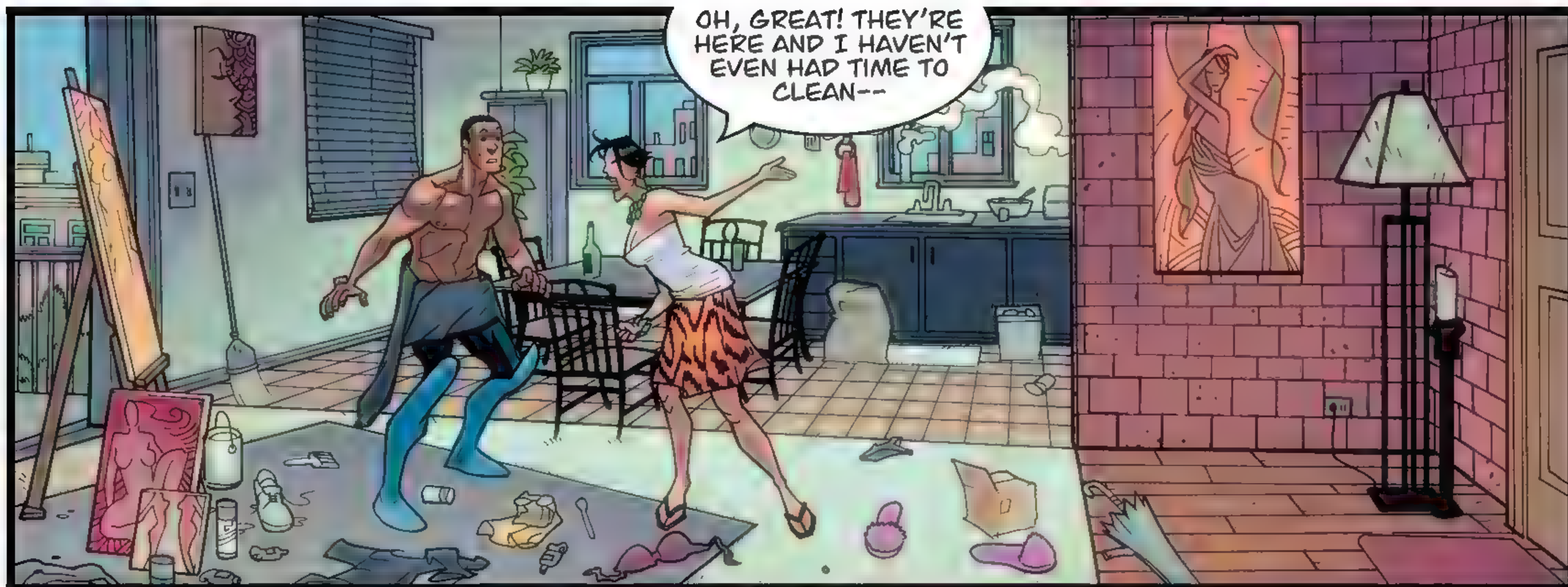
YOU DON'T REMEMBER WHY I NEEDED YOU TODAY?! WHY I MADE YOU PROMISE YOU'D BE HERE?!



YOUR PARENTS ARE COMING OVER FOR DINNER--AND THEY'RE GOING TO BE HERE ANY--

DING!  
DONG!

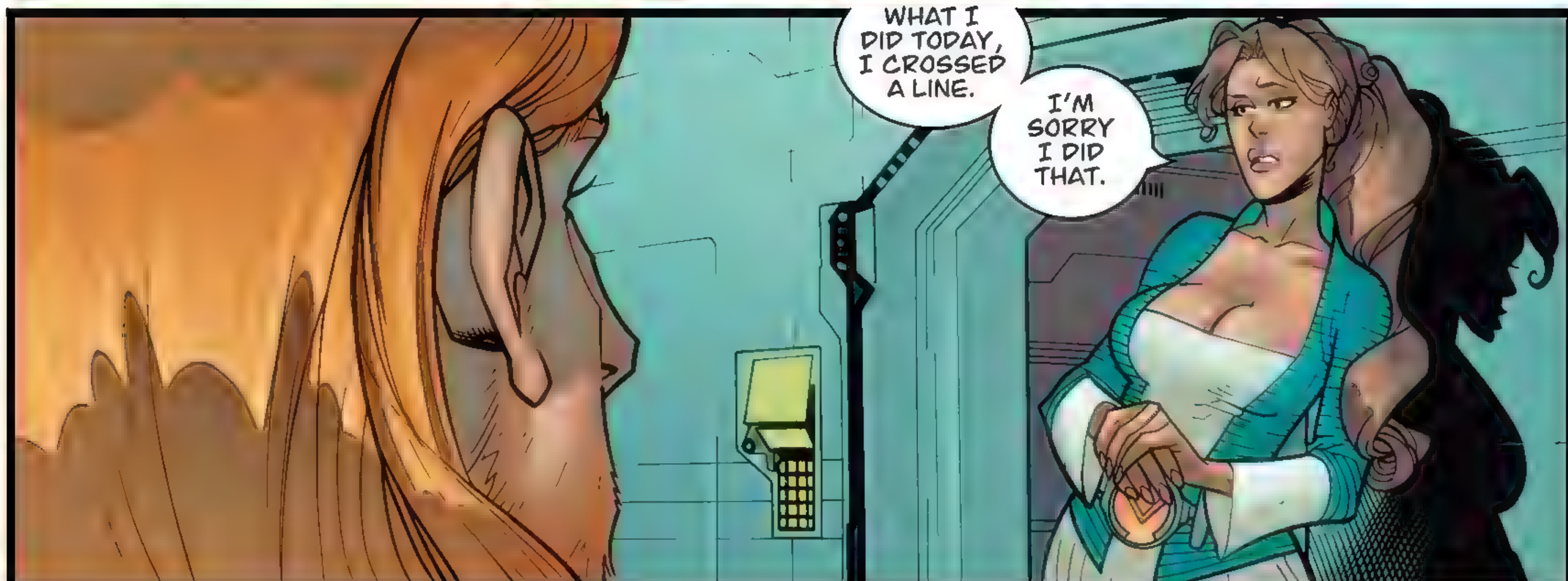
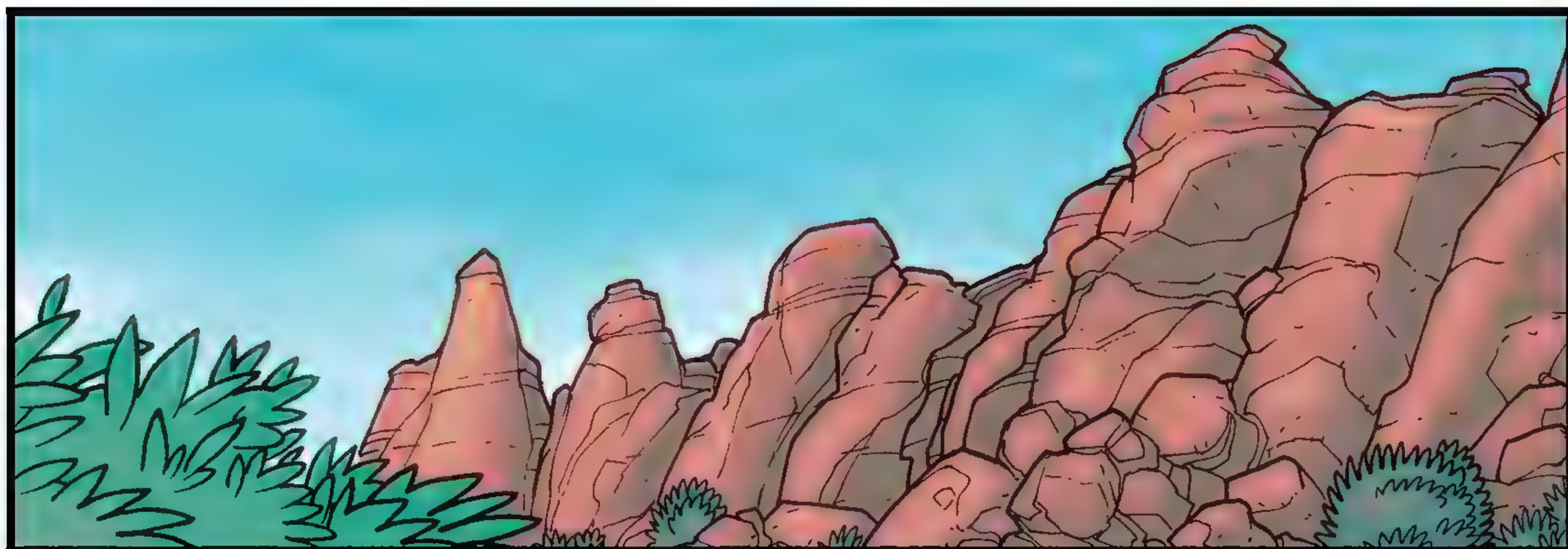




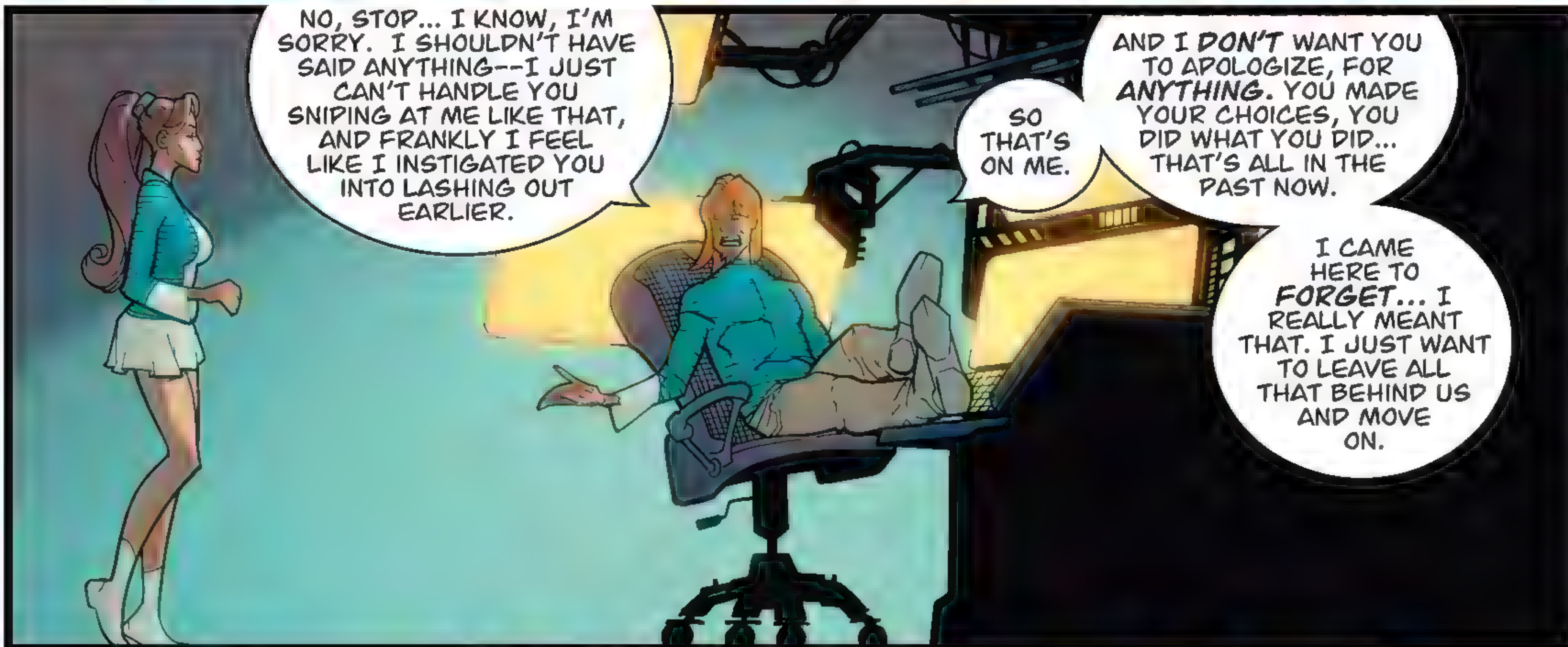












NO, STOP... I KNOW, I'M SORRY. I SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID ANYTHING--I JUST CAN'T HANDLE YOU SNIPING AT ME LIKE THAT, AND FRANKLY I FEEL LIKE I INSTIGATED YOU INTO LASHING OUT EARLIER.

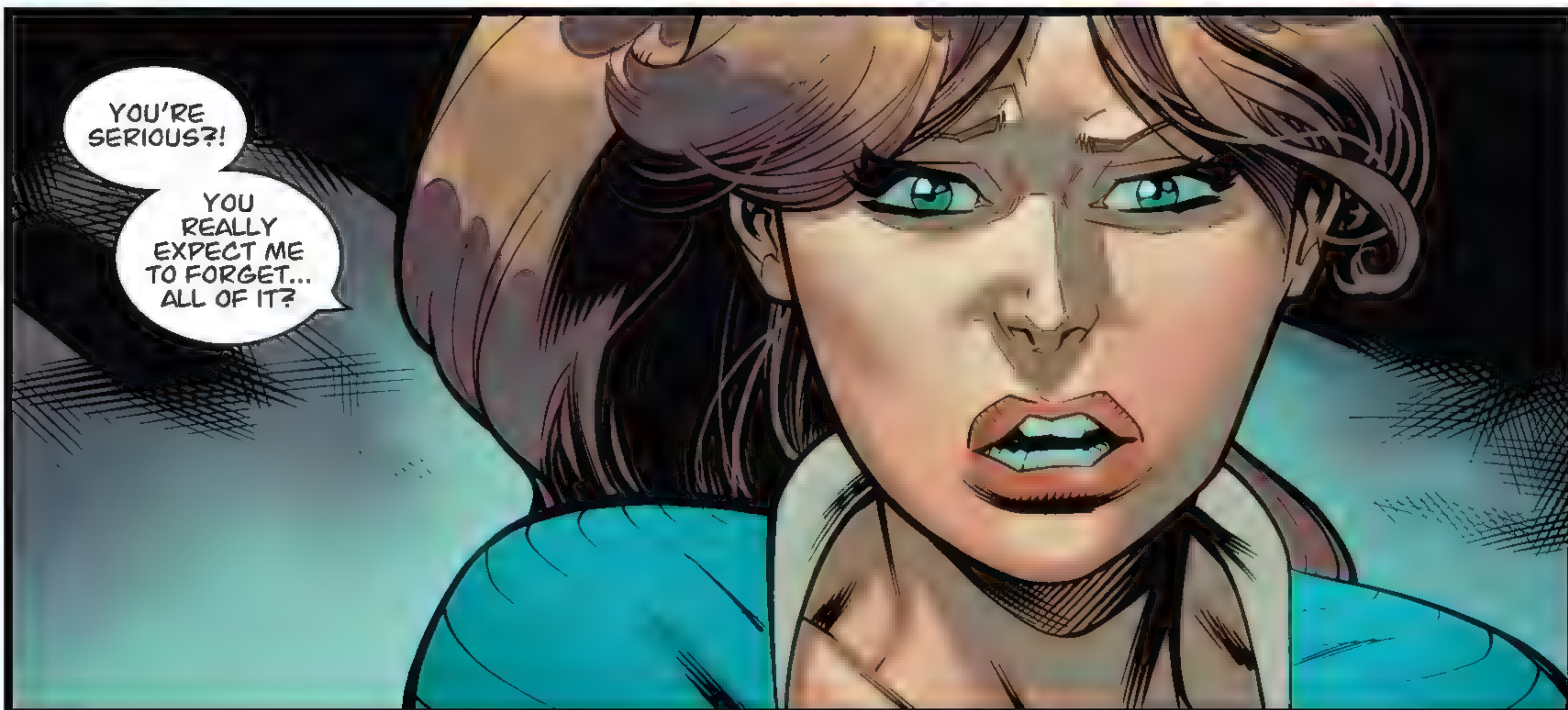
SO THAT'S ON ME.

AND I DON'T WANT YOU TO APOLOGIZE, FOR ANYTHING. YOU MADE YOUR CHOICES, YOU DID WHAT YOU DID... THAT'S ALL IN THE PAST NOW.

I CAME HERE TO **FORGET**... I REALLY MEANT THAT. I JUST WANT TO LEAVE ALL THAT BEHIND US AND MOVE ON.

YOU'RE SERIOUS?!

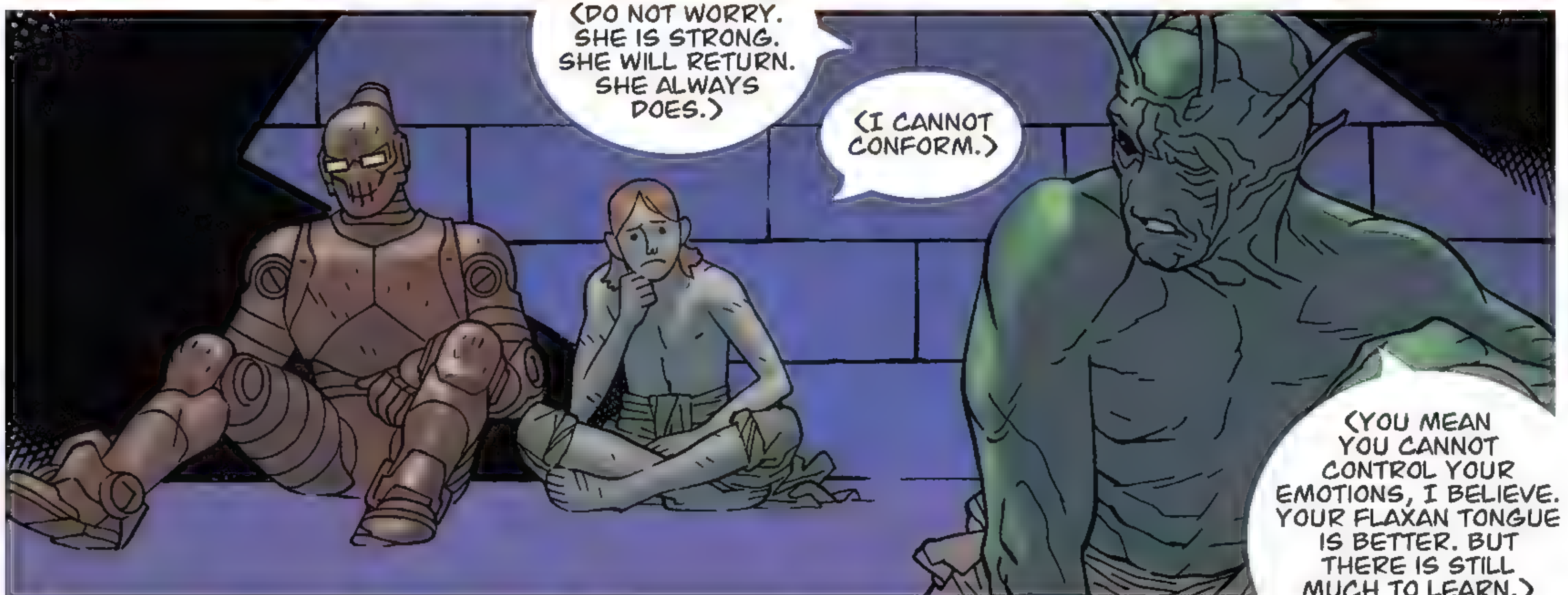
YOU REALLY EXPECT ME TO FORGET... ALL OF IT?







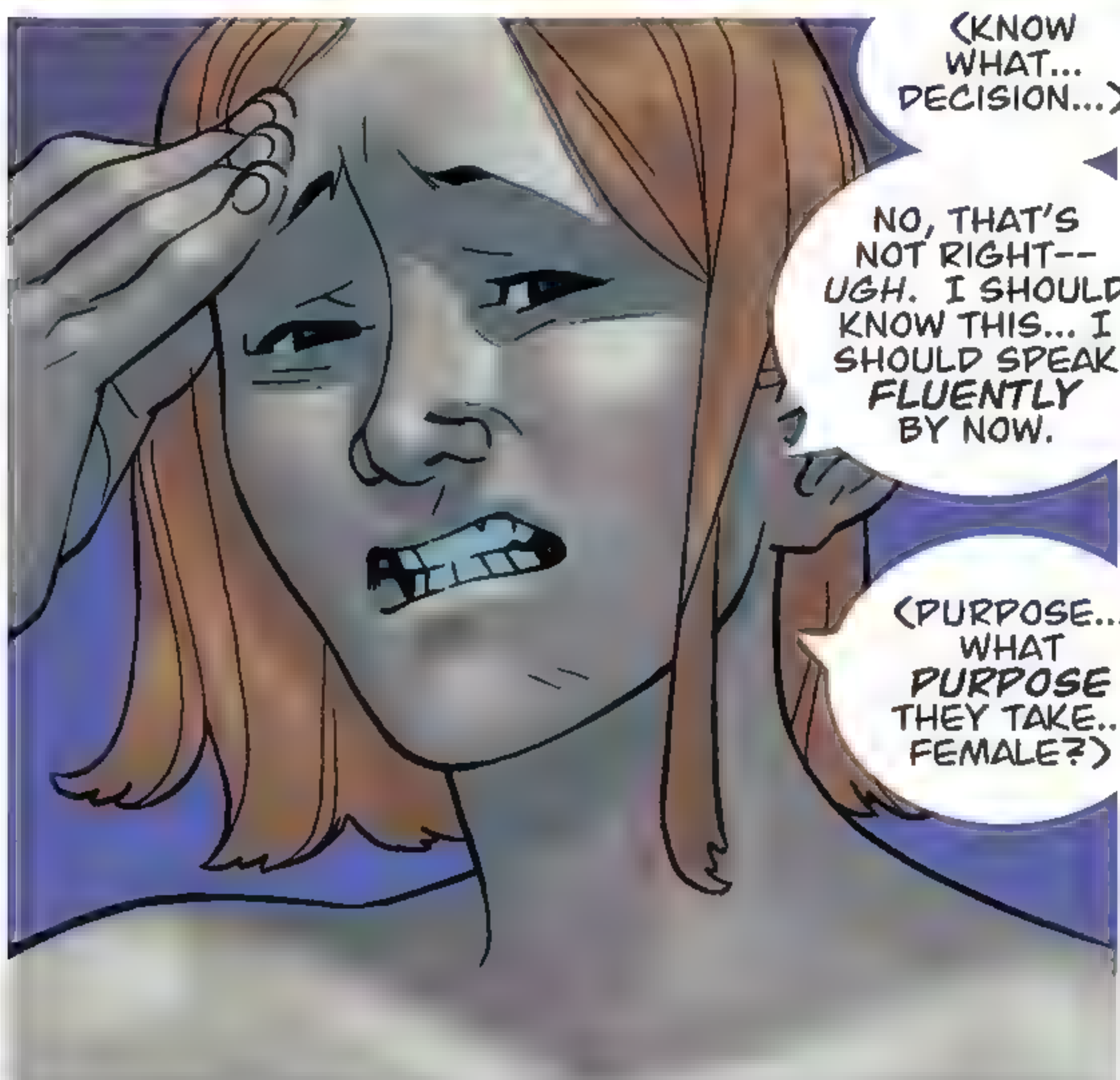
(TOO LONG  
THEY HAVE HER  
GONE.)



(DO NOT WORRY.  
SHE IS STRONG.  
SHE WILL RETURN.  
SHE ALWAYS  
DOES.)

(I CANNOT  
CONFORM.)

(YOU MEAN  
YOU CANNOT  
CONTROL YOUR  
EMOTIONS, I BELIEVE.  
YOUR FLAXAN TONGUE  
IS BETTER. BUT  
THERE IS STILL  
MUCH TO LEARN.)



(KNOW  
WHAT...  
DECISION...)

NO, THAT'S  
NOT RIGHT--  
UGH. I SHOULD  
KNOW THIS... I  
SHOULD SPEAK  
**FLUENTLY**  
BY NOW.

(PURPOSE...  
WHAT  
**PURPOSE**  
THEY TAKE...  
FEMALE?)



(THEY SPOKE  
OF TRIALS. I  
BELIEVE OUR  
CHANCELLOR CHOSE  
HER TO BE HIS  
CHAMPION. OTHER  
CHANCELLORS  
TRAVEL WITH THEIR  
CHAMPION FOR  
COMPETITION.)

(BATTLES  
ARE FOUGHT  
TO THE DEATH.  
BUT I AM SURE  
SHE WILL BEST  
THEM. I'VE  
NEVER SEEN  
ANYTHING  
LIKE--)

(THEY  
RETURN--  
**HIDE!**)





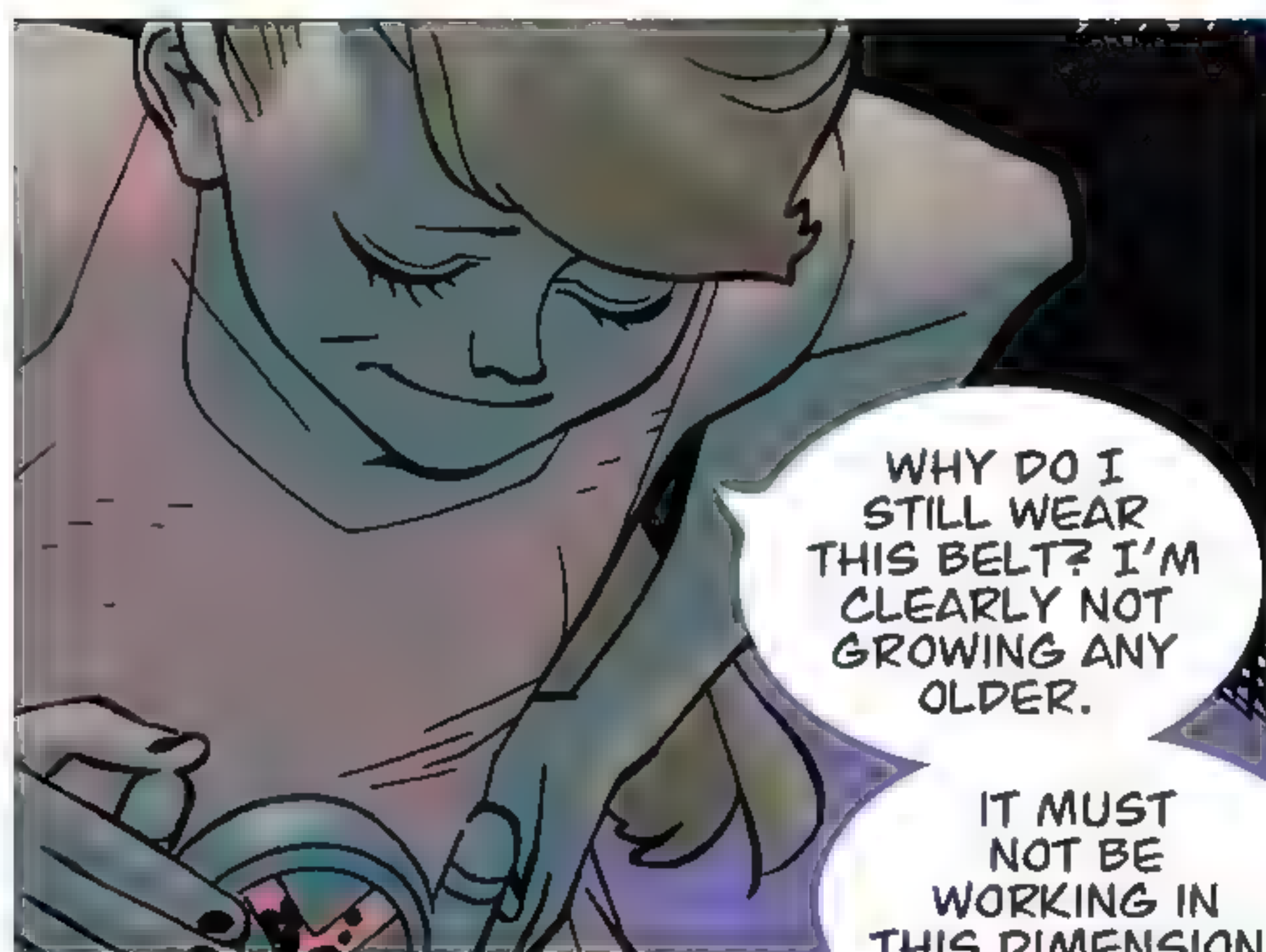
(QUICKLY,  
BEFORE THE  
BEAST TURNS  
ON US!)



MUST REALLY  
BAFFLE THEM  
HOW I BREAK  
FREE OF MY  
RESTRAINTS ALL  
THE TIME.

YOU  
GUYS  
OKAY?

HUNGRY--  
AND RELIEVED  
TO SEE YOU.



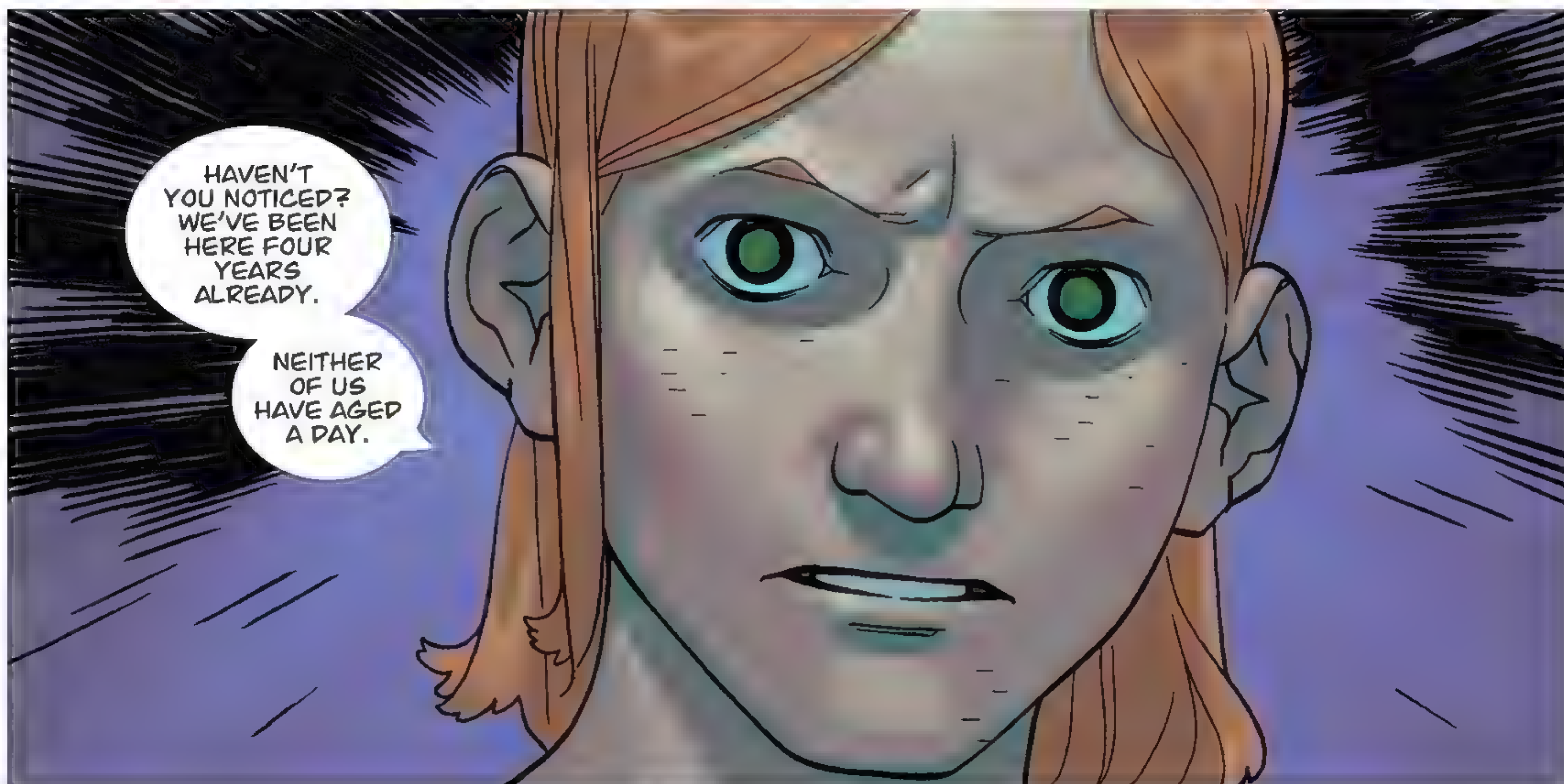
WHY DO I  
STILL WEAR  
THIS BELT? I'M  
CLEARLY NOT  
GROWING ANY  
OLDER.

IT MUST  
NOT BE  
WORKING IN  
THIS DIMENSION.



NO,  
THAT'S  
NOT IT AT  
ALL.

REMEMBER  
HOW THE FLAXANS  
AGED RAPIDLY IN  
OUR DIMENSION?  
I BELIEVE THE  
REVERSE IS IN  
EFFECT FOR US,  
HERE.



HAVEN'T  
YOU NOTICED?  
WE'VE BEEN  
HERE FOUR  
YEARS  
ALREADY.

NEITHER  
OF US  
HAVE AGED  
A DAY.





SEVEN-  
HUNDRED  
YEARS  
WE LIVED  
TOGETHER!

I KNEW YOU  
BETTER THAN  
ANYONE ON EARTH  
HAS EVER KNOWN  
ANYONE! I LOVED  
YOU MORE THAN  
ANYONE HAS  
EVER LOVED  
ANYONE!

AND YOU  
THREW IT  
AWAY--ALL  
OF IT--AFTER  
ONE SINGLE  
MISTAKE!



I'LL  
NEVER  
FORGET  
THAT!



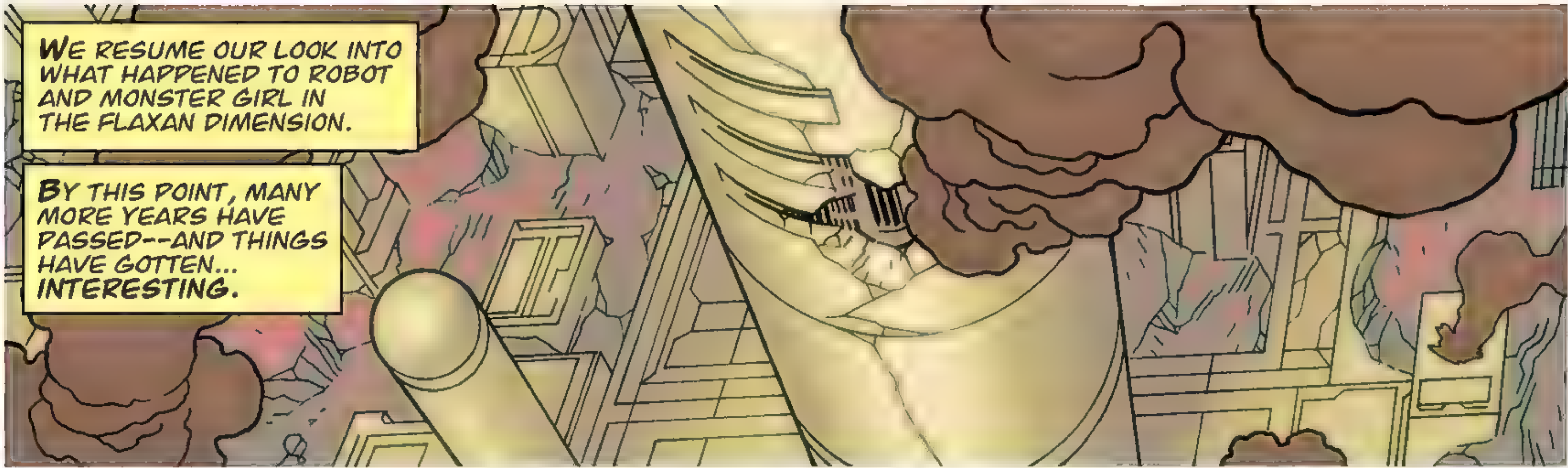




# CHAPTER THREE







WE RESUME OUR LOOK INTO WHAT HAPPENED TO ROBOT AND MONSTER GIRL IN THE FLAXAN DIMENSION.

BY THIS POINT, MANY MORE YEARS HAVE PASSED--AND THINGS HAVE GOTTEN... INTERESTING.



(YOU HAVE DISRUPTED MY ROYAL CHAMBERS, DAMAGED THE GREAT HALLS OF TRUNG AND CORRUPTED A CHAMPION OF OUR ARENA THAT HAS ENTERTAINED ME SINCE I WAS A BOY.)

(I HAVE A SPECIAL PUNISHMENT SET ASIDE JUST FOR YOU--EARTH MAN!)



WELL...

...THIS COULD HAVE GONE BETTER.





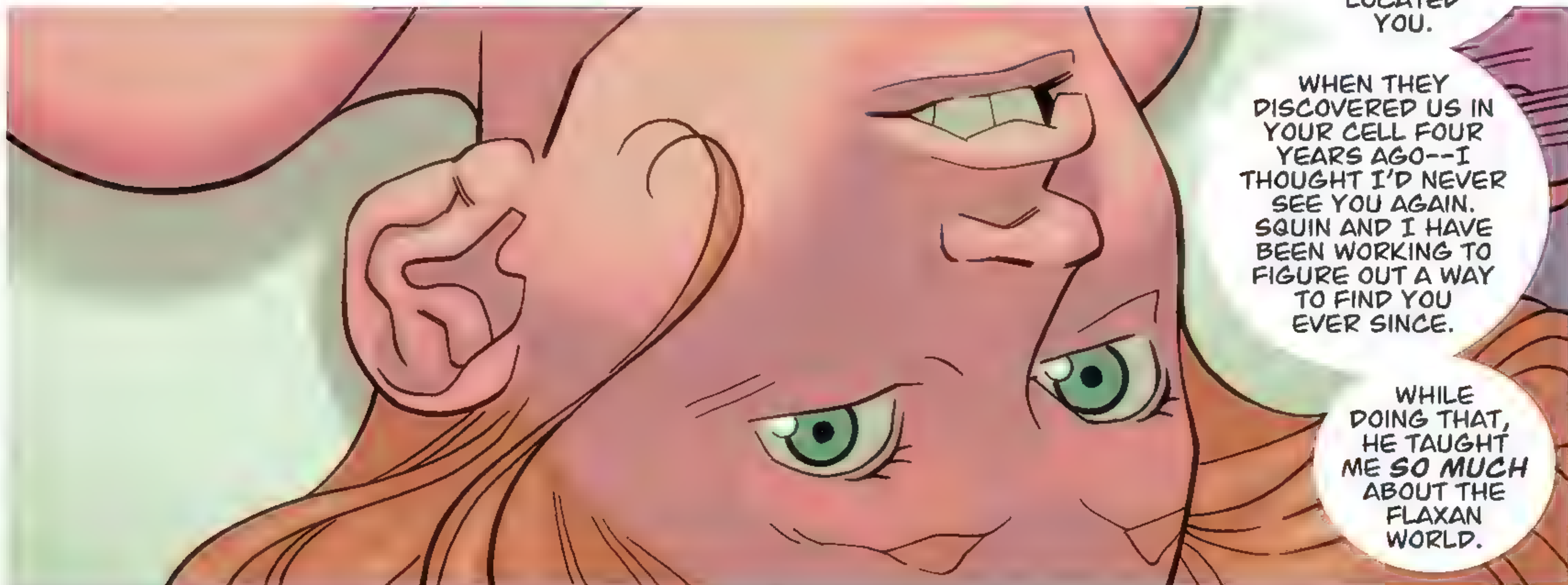
THAT PLAN TOOK  
**TWENTY YEARS**,  
REX. SQUIN LOST HIS  
LIFE WORKING TO  
HELP US GAIN  
ACCESS TO  
THE THRONE  
ROOM.

THAT WAS  
SUPPOSED TO  
WORK... AND  
YOU DON'T  
EVEN SEEM  
UPSET.

THE PLAN IS  
**STILL** WORKING,  
SQUIN FREELY  
GAVE HIS LIFE FOR  
THIS CAUSE--AND  
HIS SACRIFICE  
WILL NOT BE  
IN VAIN.

THAT ATTACK  
ON THE EMPEROR  
WAS ONLY THE  
**BEGINNING**.

I'M SORRY  
I COULDN'T  
COMMUNICATE THE  
INTRICACIES OF MY  
PLAN--OUR ATTACK  
HAD TO HAPPEN  
IMMEDIATELY  
AFTER I'D  
LOCATED  
YOU.



WHEN THEY  
DISCOVERED US IN  
YOUR CELL FOUR  
YEARS AGO--I  
THOUGHT I'D NEVER  
SEE YOU AGAIN.  
SQUIN AND I HAVE  
BEEN WORKING TO  
FIGURE OUT A WAY  
TO FIND YOU  
EVER SINCE.

WHILE  
DOING THAT,  
HE TAUGHT  
ME **SO MUCH**  
ABOUT THE  
FLAXAN  
WORLD.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THEY DO?  
WHY THEY INVADE SO MANY  
OTHER DIMENSIONS--LIKE HOW  
THEY'VE REPEATEDLY  
ATTEMPTED TO INVADE OURS?

THEY'RE HARVESTING  
**SLAVES**. IT'S HARD FOR  
US TO RECOGNIZE, BUT ALL  
THE VARIOUS LIFE-FORMS  
WE'VE SEEN--THEY'RE FROM  
OTHER DIMENSIONS.

THE FLAXANS ARE A  
WARRIOR RACE, THEY  
HAVE ONLY SOLDIERS.  
ALL OTHER TASKS  
ARE PERFORMED  
BY SLAVES.

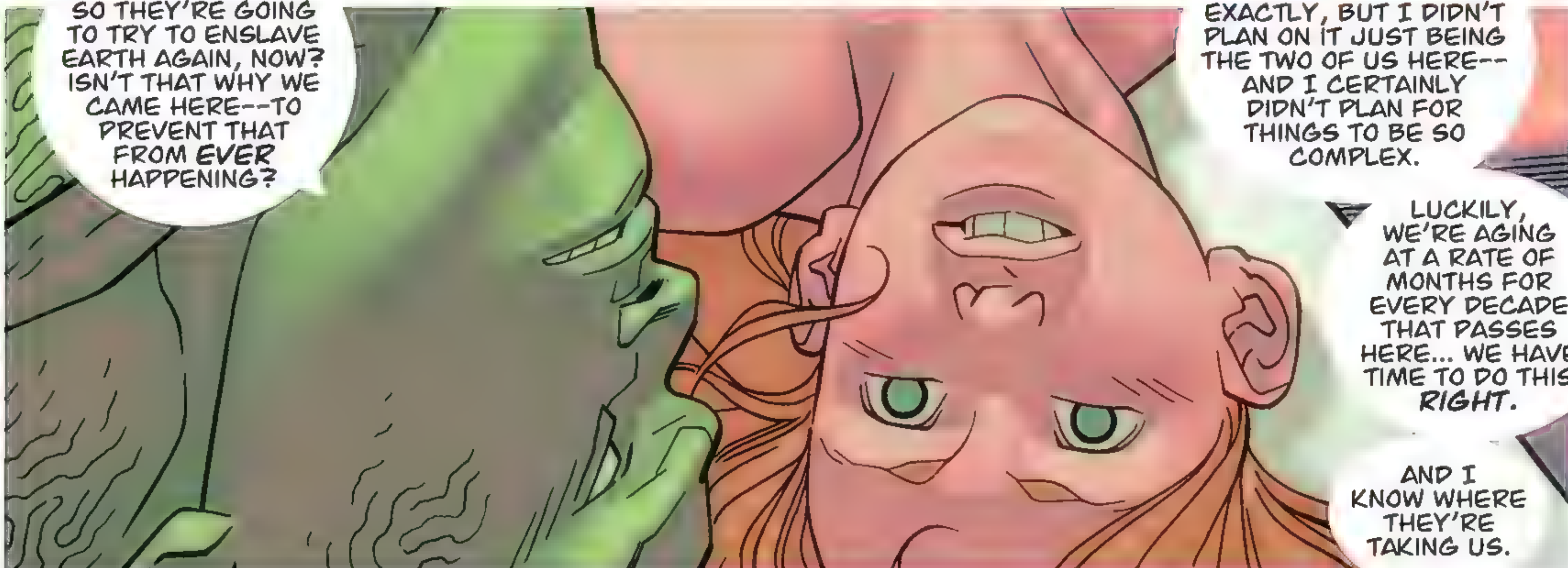


SO THEY'RE GOING  
TO TRY TO ENSLAVE  
EARTH AGAIN, NOW?  
ISN'T THAT WHY WE  
CAME HERE--TO  
PREVENT THAT  
FROM **EVER**  
HAPPENING?

EXACTLY, BUT I DIDN'T  
PLAN ON IT JUST BEING  
THE TWO OF US HERE--  
AND I CERTAINLY  
DIDN'T PLAN FOR  
THINGS TO BE SO  
COMPLEX.

LUCKILY,  
WE'RE AGING  
AT A RATE OF  
MONTHS FOR  
EVERY DECADE  
THAT PASSES  
HERE... WE HAVE  
TIME TO DO THIS  
**RIGHT**.

AND I  
KNOW WHERE  
THEY'RE  
TAKING US.





WHEN THEY HARVEST SLAVES FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION, IT IS USUALLY DONE WITH THE SET PURPOSE THAT THE SLAVES WILL BE USED FOR ALREADY IN MIND.

THE VERY FIRST TIME THEY INVADED OUR DIMENSION, AND WERE THWARTED, THEY NEEDED THE POPULATION OF EARTH TO WORK IN THEIR MINERAL MINES.

WHEN THEY WERE STOPPED, IT WAS THE WORK OF ONE INDIVIDUAL, INVINCIBLE'S FATHER, **OMNI-MAN**. A PLAN WAS CONCEIVED AND CARRIED OUT TO BRING HIM INTO THE FLAXAN DIMENSION, TO REMOVE HIM FROM THE EQUATION.\*

HERE HE IS KNOWN AS **THE DESTROYER**.

\*ISSUE 3.

HE WAS HELD CAPTIVE FOR A TIME. THEY'D DEVISED SOME WAY TO INHIBIT HIS NATURAL ABILITIES. BUT HIS CAPTIVITY DID NOT LAST.

TO SAY THEIR PLAN BACKFIRED ON THEM WOULD BE A MASSIVE UNDERSTATEMENT.

IN THE END, THE WAR THEY FOUGHT AGAINST ONE MAN LASTED NEARLY A YEAR IN THIS DIMENSION.

AS A RESULT, THE FLAXANS' EMPIRE WAS IN SHAMBLES, AND KLAXIA, THE CROWN CITY OF THEIR CIVILIZATION, WAS DESTROYED.





IT TOOK THEM GENERATIONS TO PREPARE FOR THEIR NEXT ASSAULT ON EARTH. WHICH WAS DONE WITH THE INTENTION OF CHARGING THE HUMAN POPULATION WITH REBUILDING THEIR BELOVED CITY, KLAXIA.

WHICH IS WHERE THEY ARE TAKING US NOW. AS WE ARE FROM EARTH, IT WILL BE OUR TASK, AND OUR TASK ALONE TO REBUILD A CITY THAT HAS LAID IN WASTE FOR CENTURIES.

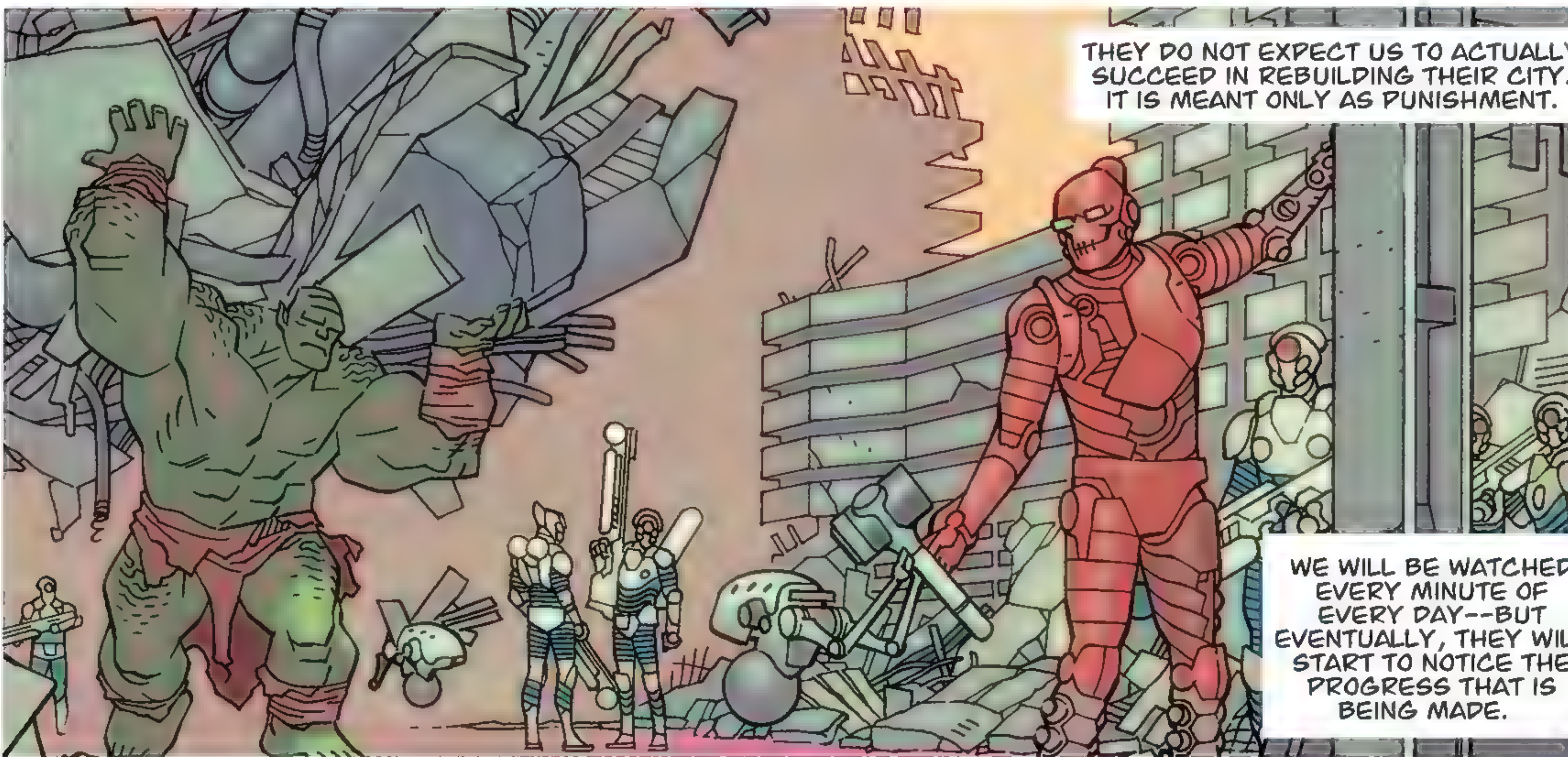


SO WE REBUILD A CITY FOR THEM? HOW IS THAT PART OF OUR PLAN-- HOW DOES THAT HELP US?

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN TO YOU OVER THE LAST FOUR YEARS THAT MADE YOU LESS SMART?

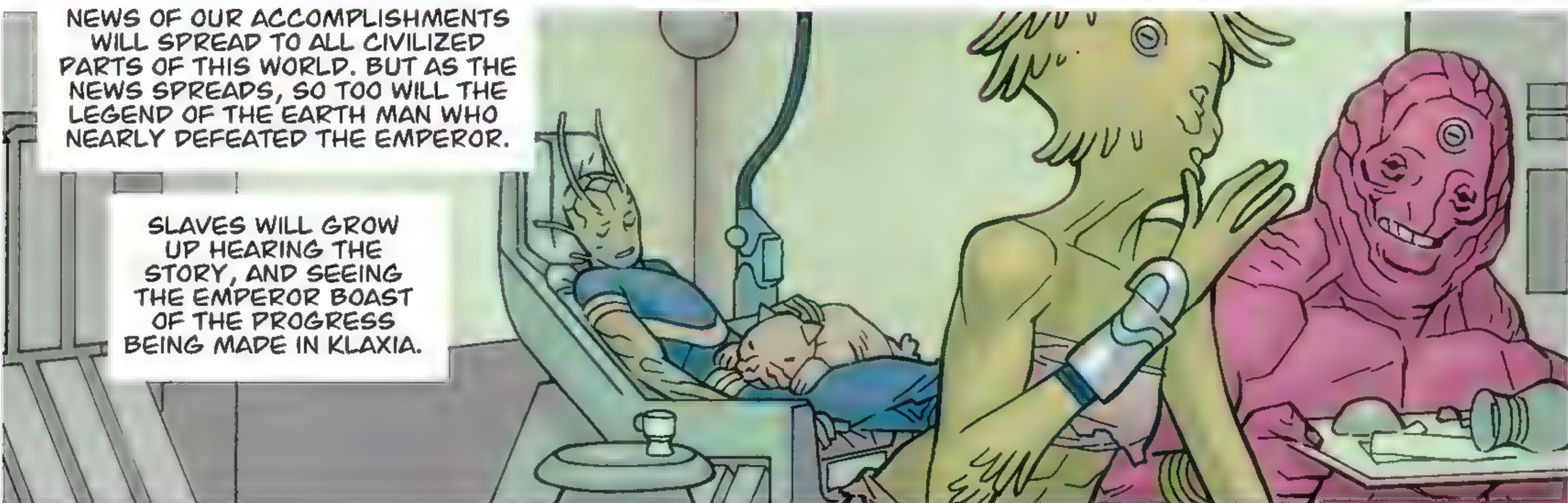
YOU'RE NOT TAKING INTO ACCOUNT TIME. ONLY A MATTER OF WEEKS HAS PASSED ON EARTH IN OUR DECADES ON THIS WORLD... THIS WILL NOT BE EASY... IT WILL TAKE A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF TIME.

BUT TIME IS ON OUR SIDE.



THEY DO NOT EXPECT US TO ACTUALLY SUCCEED IN REBUILDING THEIR CITY. IT IS MEANT ONLY AS PUNISHMENT.

WE WILL BE WATCHED EVERY MINUTE OF EVERY DAY--BUT EVENTUALLY, THEY WILL START TO NOTICE THE PROGRESS THAT IS BEING MADE.



NEWS OF OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS WILL SPREAD TO ALL CIVILIZED PARTS OF THIS WORLD. BUT AS THE NEWS SPREADS, SO TOO WILL THE LEGEND OF THE EARTH MAN WHO NEARLY DEFEATED THE EMPEROR.

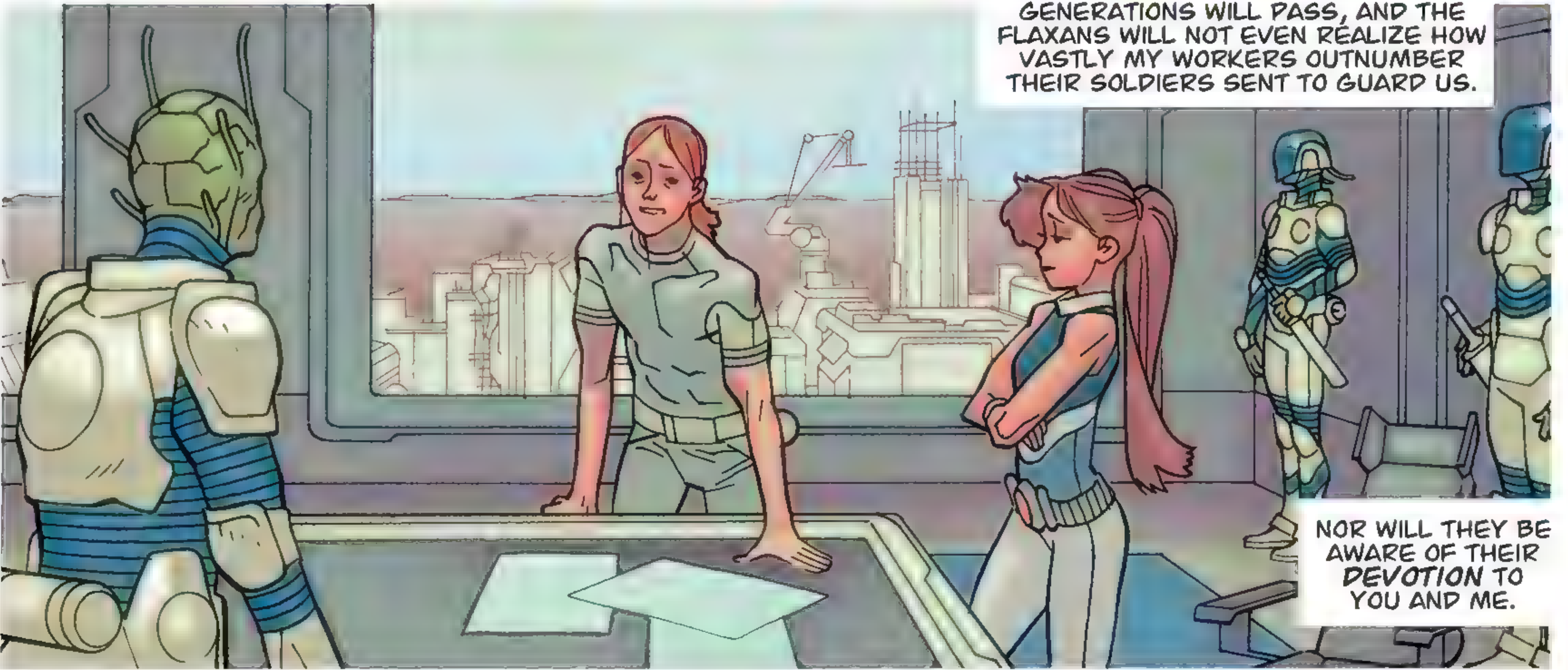
SLAVES WILL GROW UP HEARING THE STORY, AND SEEING THE EMPEROR BOAST OF THE PROGRESS BEING MADE IN KLAXIA.





IT WILL ONLY BE A MATTER OF YEARS BEFORE THE PROJECT IS ACTUALLY TAKEN SERIOUSLY, AND WE'RE SENT HUNDREDS OF WORKERS TO AID IN OUR TASK.

WORKERS THAT KNOW OF OUR FEAT, STORMING THE EMPEROR'S THRONE ROOM. WORKERS WITH NO LOVE FOR THE FLAXAN EMPIRE.



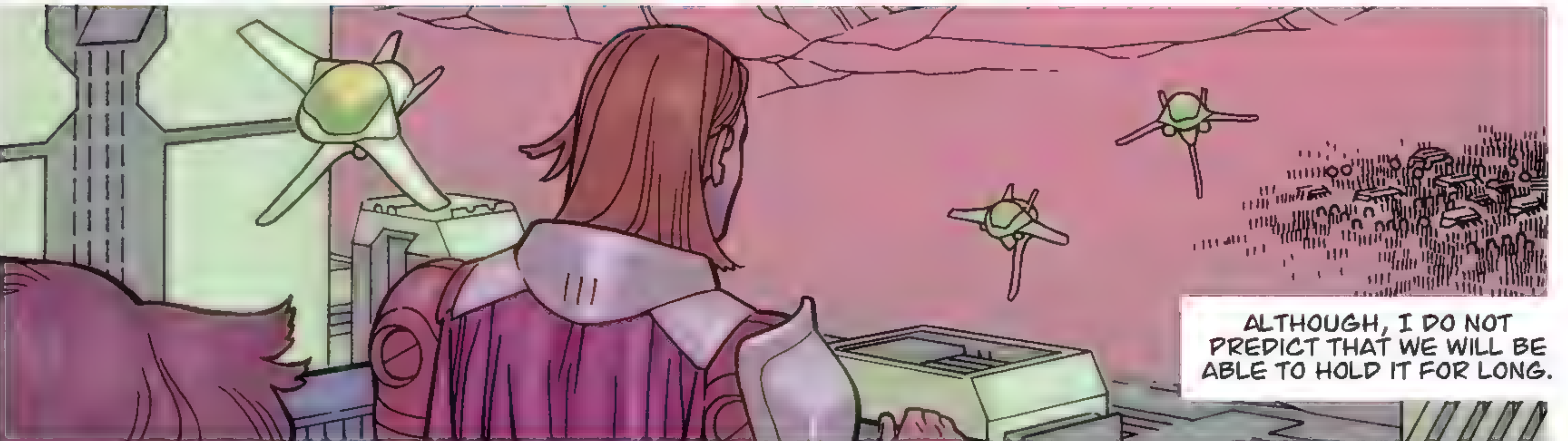
GENERATIONS WILL PASS, AND THE FLAXANS WILL NOT EVEN REALIZE HOW VASTLY MY WORKERS OUTNUMBER THEIR SOLDIERS SENT TO GUARD US.

NOR WILL THEY BE AWARE OF THEIR DEVOTION TO YOU AND ME.



THE REVOLT WILL BE SWIFT.

ON THE EVE OF THE COMPLETE RESTORATION OF KLAXIA-- WE WILL CONTROL THE CITY.

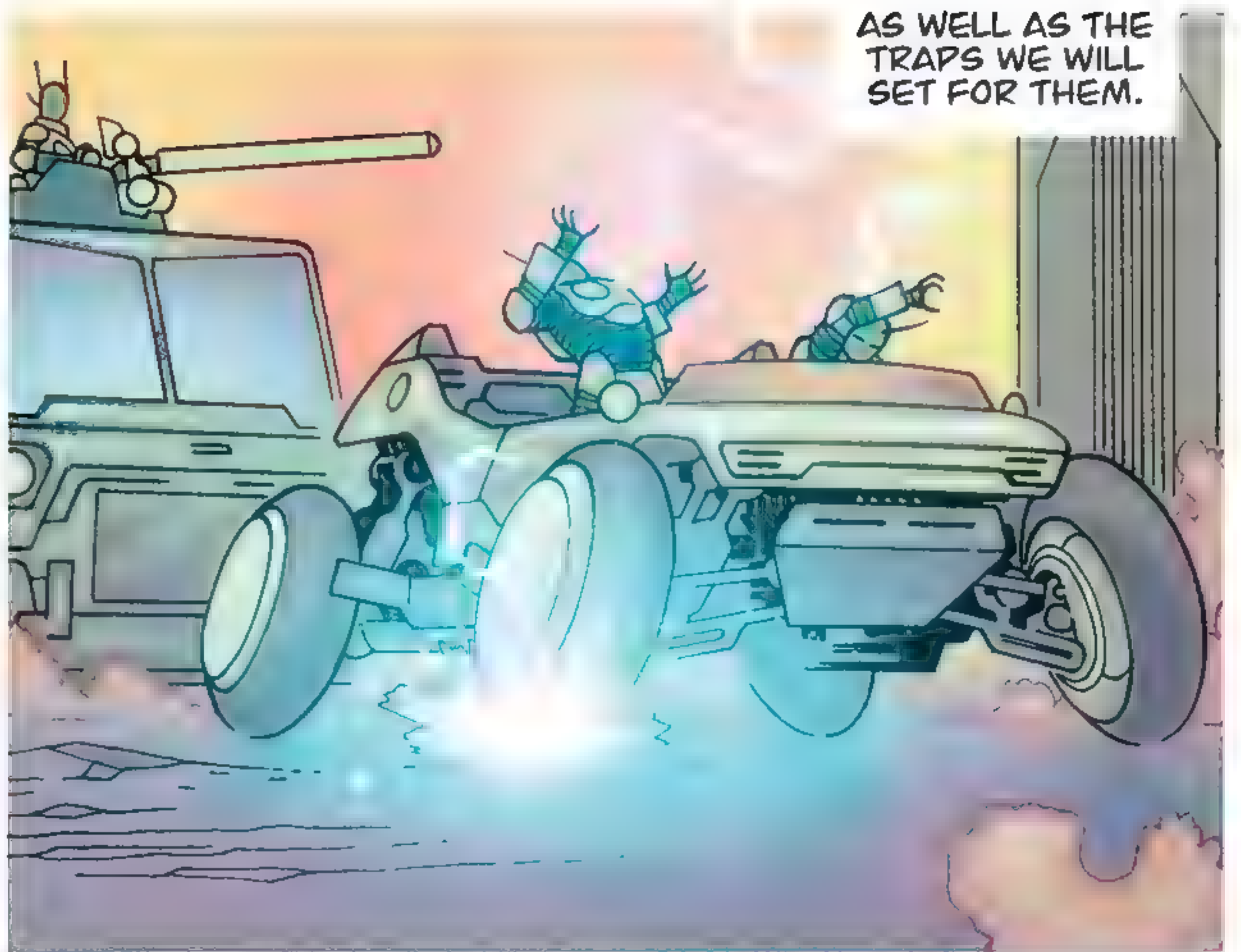


ALTHOUGH, I DO NOT PREDICT THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO HOLD IT FOR LONG.





BUT THE FLAXAN ARMY  
WILL BE UNAWARE OF  
THE TUNNEL SYSTEM WE  
WILL HAVE BUILT  
UNDER THE CITY.



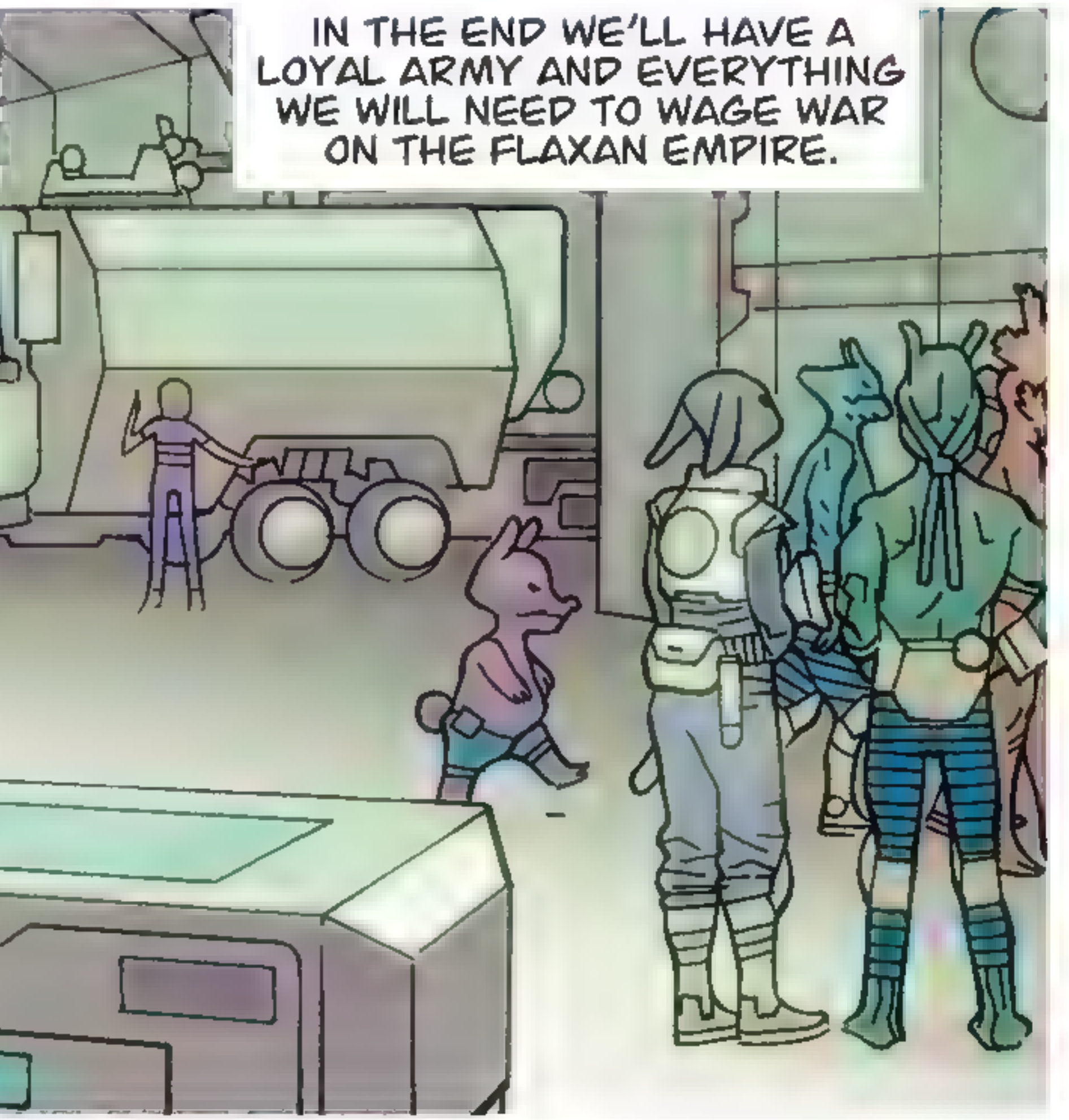
AS WELL AS THE  
TRAPS WE WILL  
SET FOR THEM.



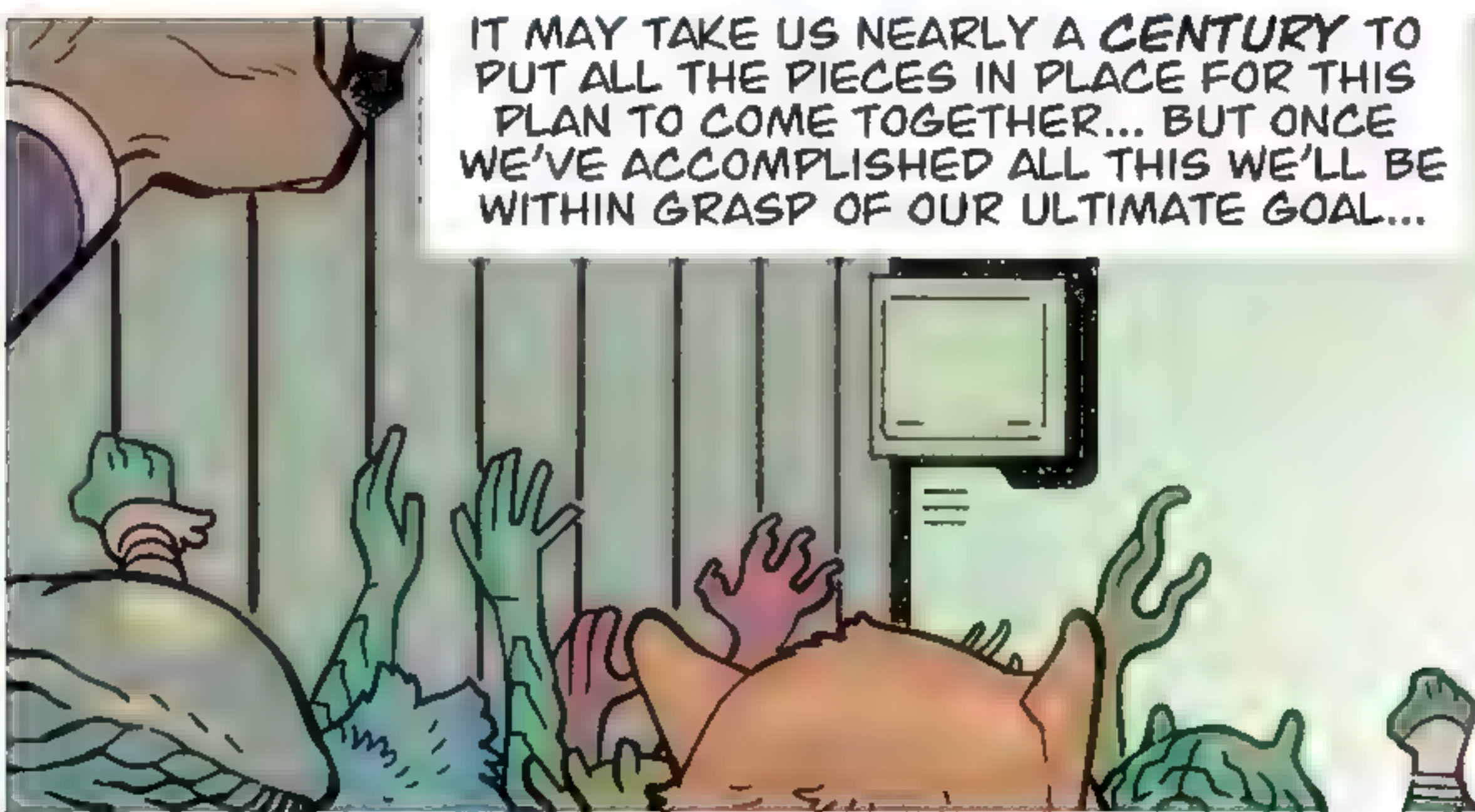
WE'LL STORE SUPPLIES IN THE  
TUNNEL SYSTEM, SO THAT WE  
CAN USE THE WASTELAND AS  
A STAGING GROUND.



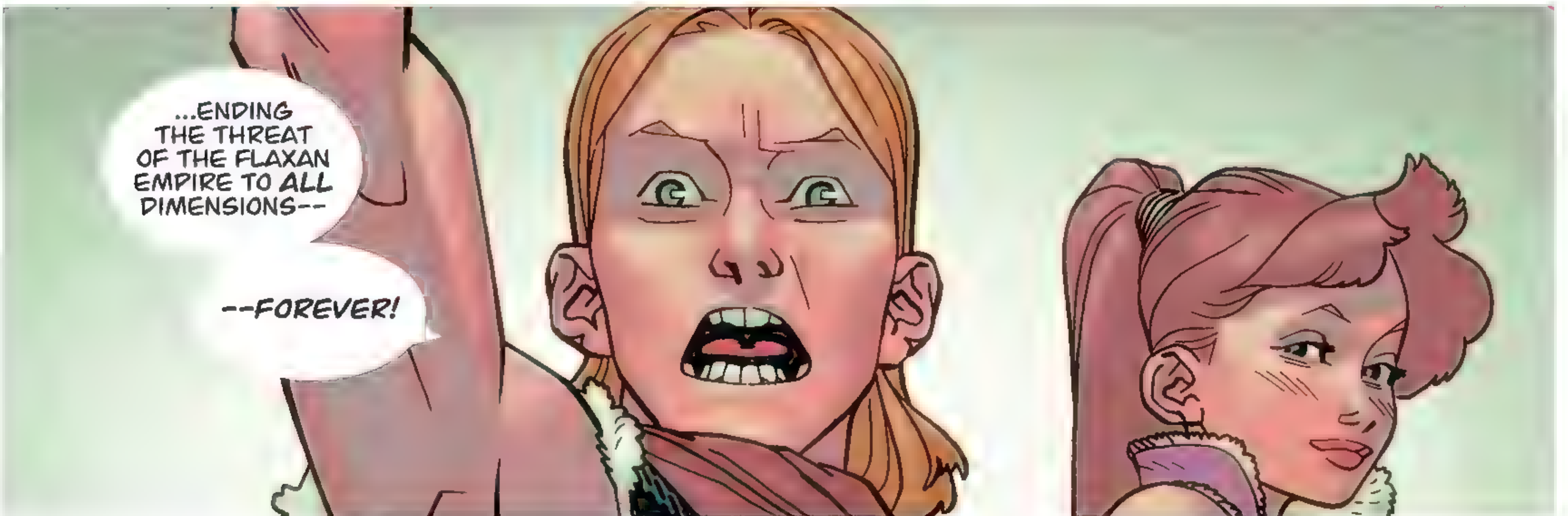
WE WILL CONFISCATE ALL THE  
WEAPONRY AND VEHICLES SENT  
AFTER US, AND APPROPRIATE  
THEM FOR OUR CAUSE.



IN THE END WE'LL HAVE A  
LOYAL ARMY AND EVERYTHING  
WE WILL NEED TO WAGE WAR  
ON THE FLAXAN EMPIRE.

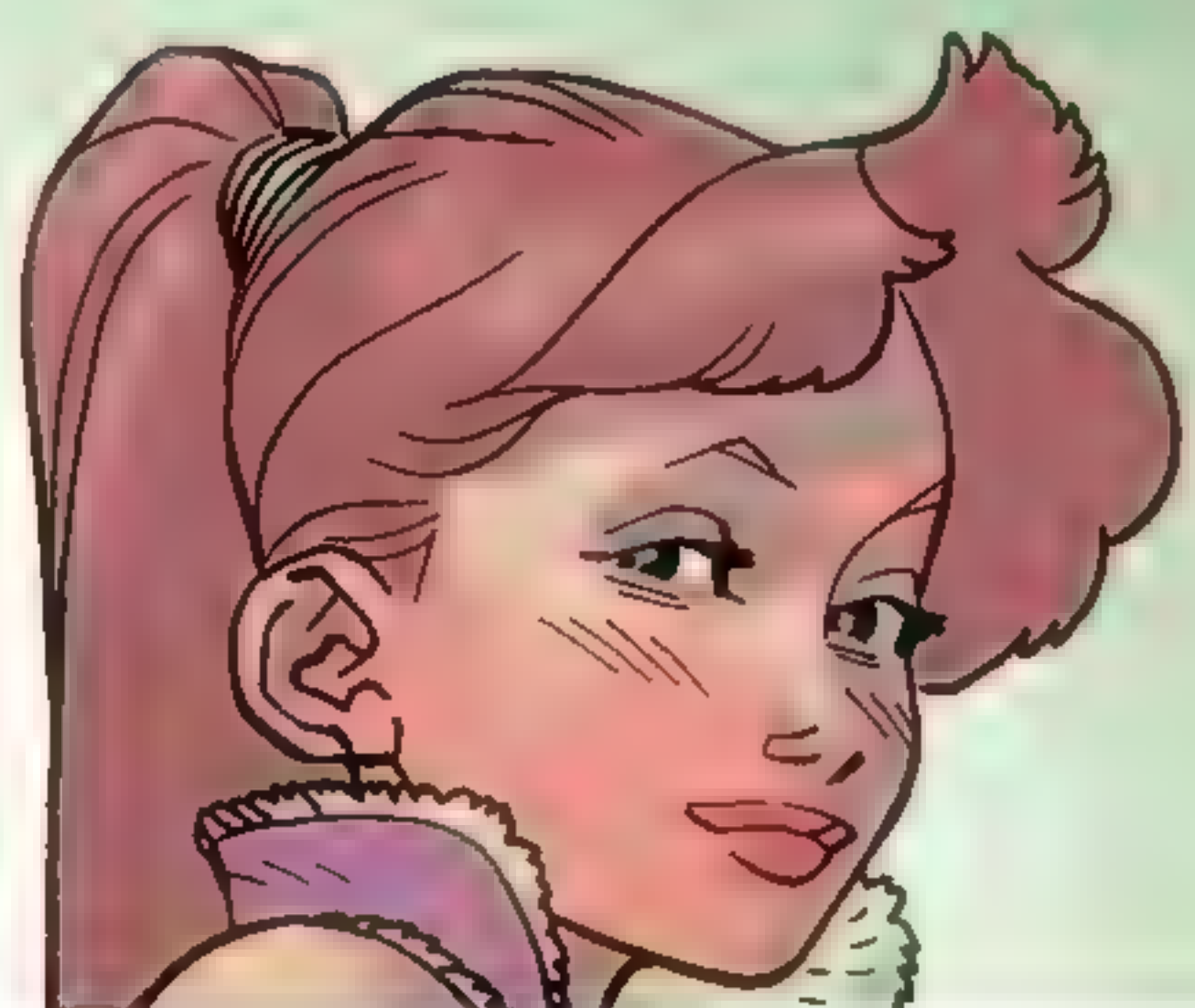


IT MAY TAKE US NEARLY A **CENTURY** TO  
PUT ALL THE PIECES IN PLACE FOR THIS  
PLAN TO COME TOGETHER... BUT ONCE  
WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED ALL THIS WE'LL BE  
WITHIN GRASP OF OUR ULTIMATE GOAL...



...ENDING  
THE THREAT  
OF THE FLAXAN  
EMPIRE TO ALL  
DIMENSIONS--

--FOREVER!



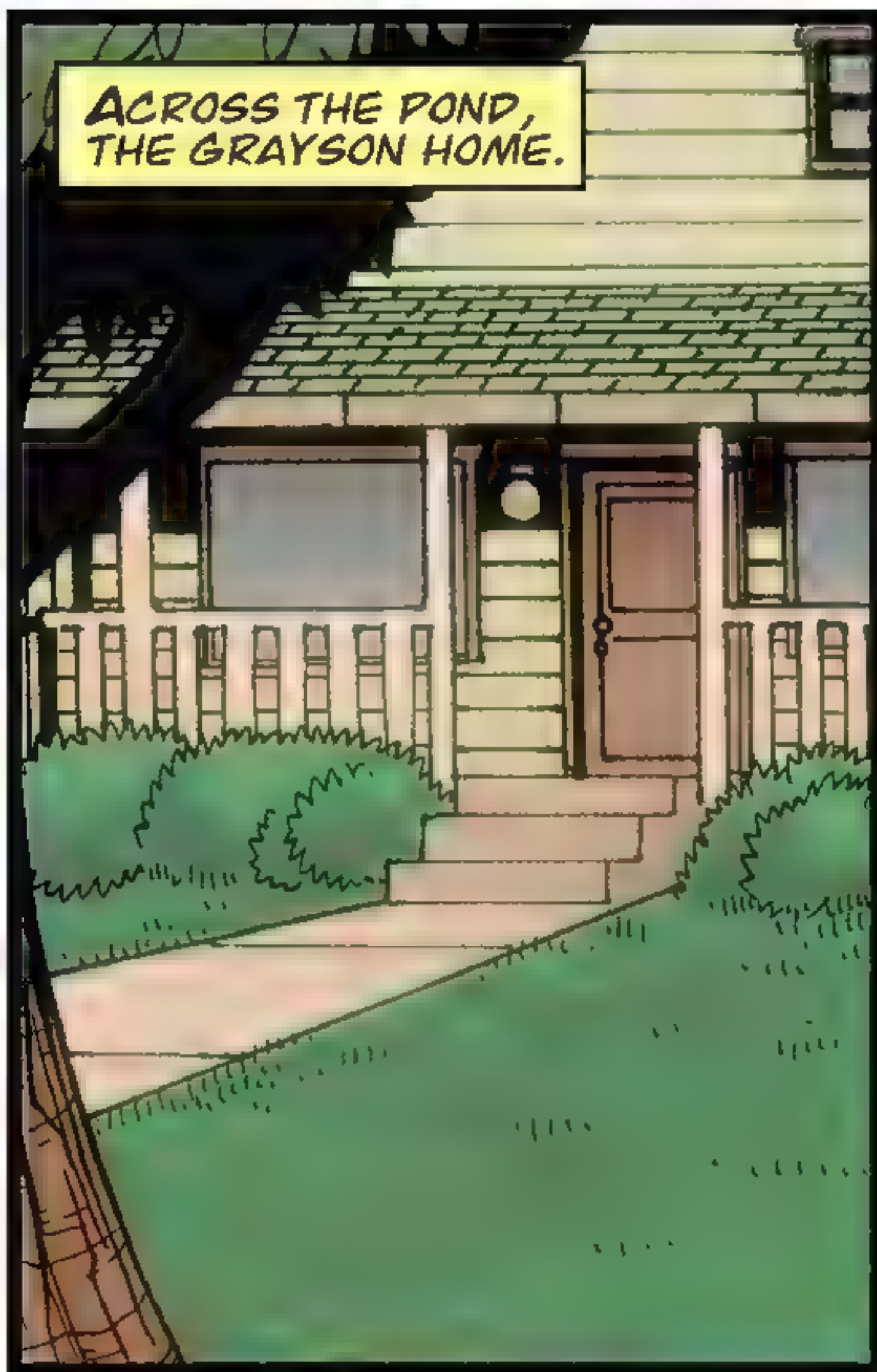












ACROSS THE POND,  
THE GRAYSON HOME.



YOU'VE GOT TO HELP STOP  
THEM! THEY'RE IN THE  
MIDDLE OF LONDON! WE  
CAN'T LET ANOTHER  
MAJOR CITY GET  
DESTROYED!

AGAIN!

I'M NOT  
GOING TO LEAVE  
YOU HERE,  
UNPROTECTED. IF  
THIS IS A FULL-  
SCALE INVASION, IT  
COULD REACH  
THIS AREA.



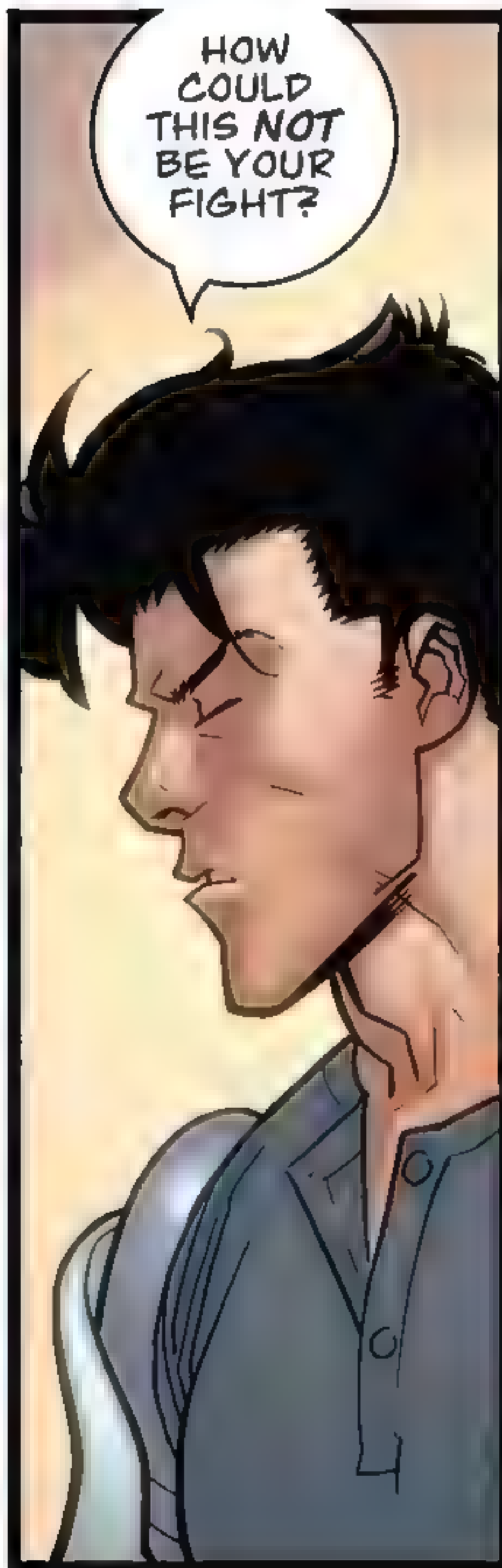
EVE!

PEOPLE'S  
LIVES ARE AT  
STAKE! DON'T  
MAKE THIS  
ABOUT  
ME BEING  
POWERLESS.



REMEMBER WHEN  
YOU STARTED OUT  
AND I WAS GIVING  
YOU POINTERS  
ON BEING A  
SUPERHERO?  
THERE'S ONE  
THAT I  
FORGOT.

KNOW  
WHEN  
IT'S YOUR  
FIGHT.

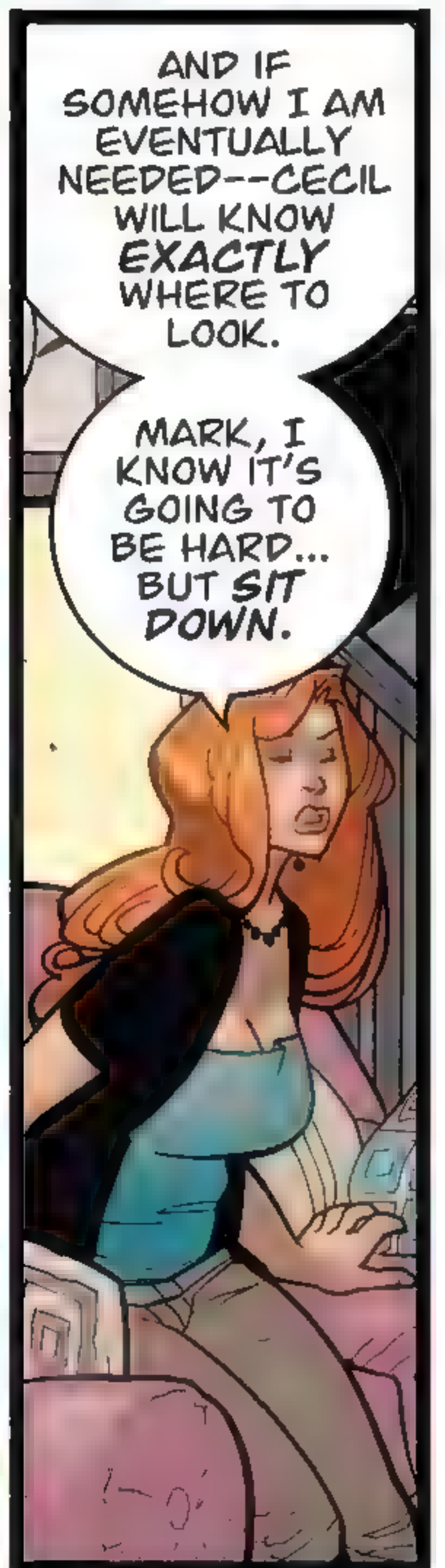


HOW  
COULD  
THIS NOT  
BE YOUR  
FIGHT?



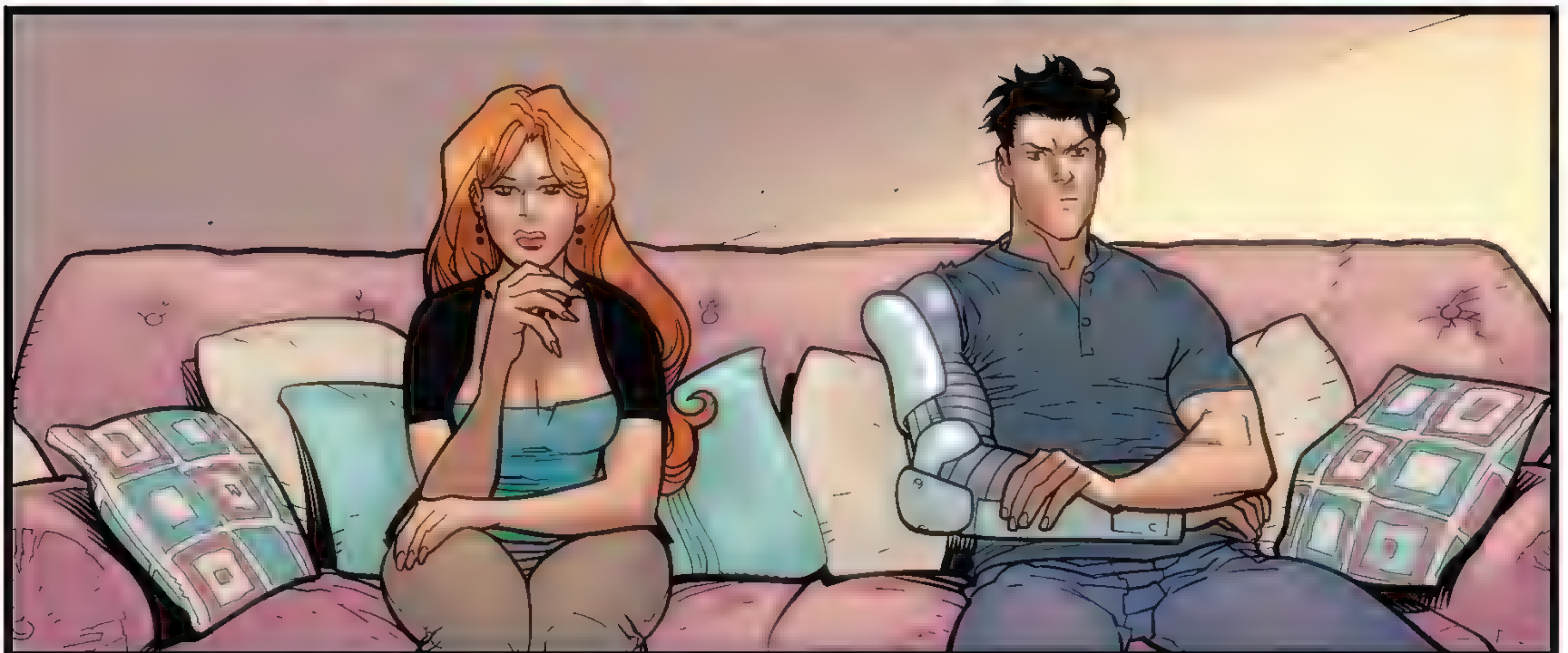
HOW WOULD I EVEN  
GET THERE? I CAN'T  
FLY AS FAST AS  
YOU COULD.

FACE IT,  
THERE ARE  
COUNTLESS  
OTHER  
SUPERHEROES  
WHO ARE FASTER,  
STRONGER AND  
SMARTER THAN  
ME... AND THEY'RE  
NO DOUBT  
ALREADY ON  
THEIR WAY.



AND IF  
SOMEHOW I AM  
EVENTUALLY  
NEEDED--CECIL  
WILL KNOW  
EXACTLY  
WHERE TO  
LOOK.

MARK, I  
KNOW IT'S  
GOING TO  
BE HARD...  
BUT SIT  
DOWN.



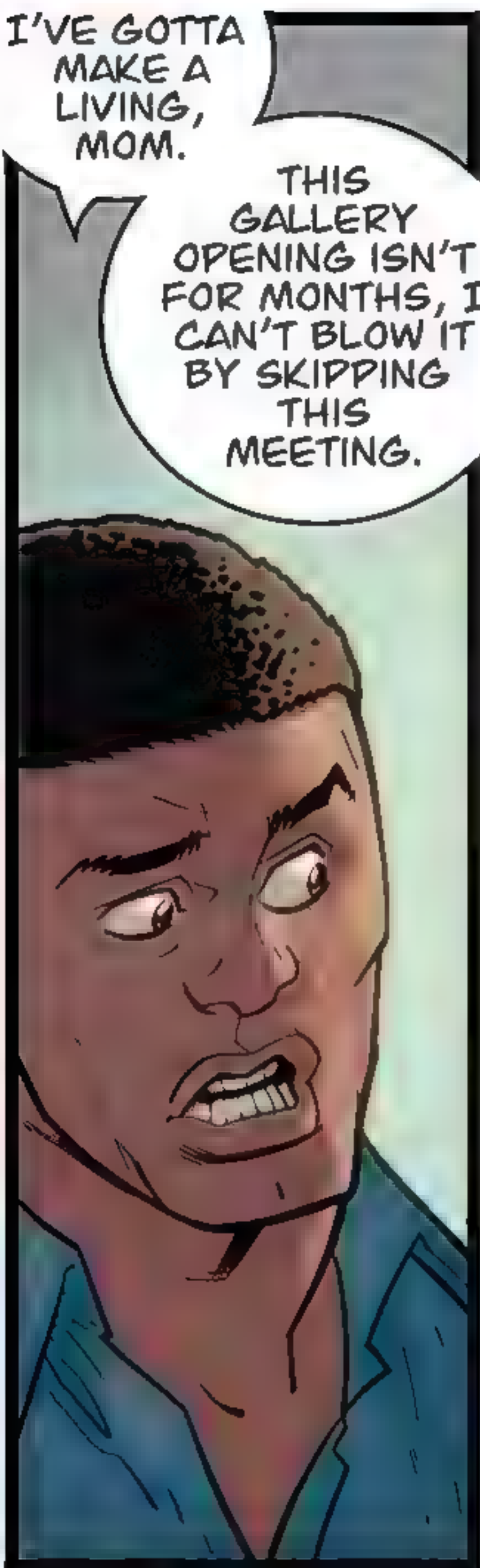




I'M SORRY, GUYS... I'VE GOT A MEETING AT THIS GALLERY AND I, UM... NEED TO GO.

ARE YOU **SERIOUS?! WITH WHAT'S HAPPENING IN LONDON? YOU'RE JUST GOING TO GO?**

WE'LL PROBABLY SEE YOUR BROTHER ON TV! CANCEL IT.



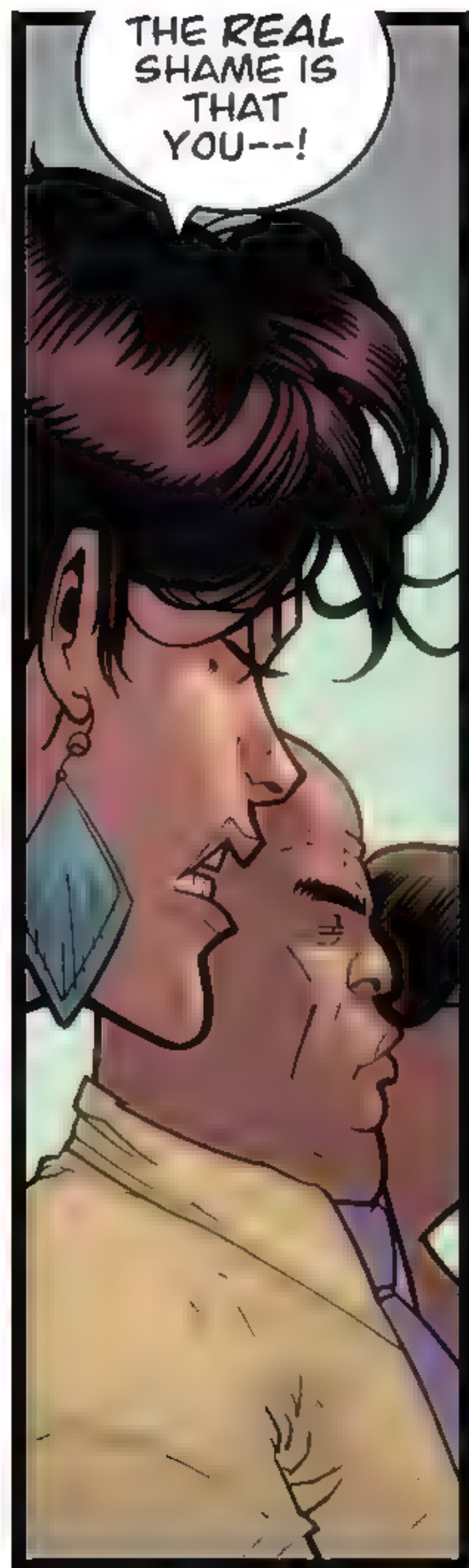
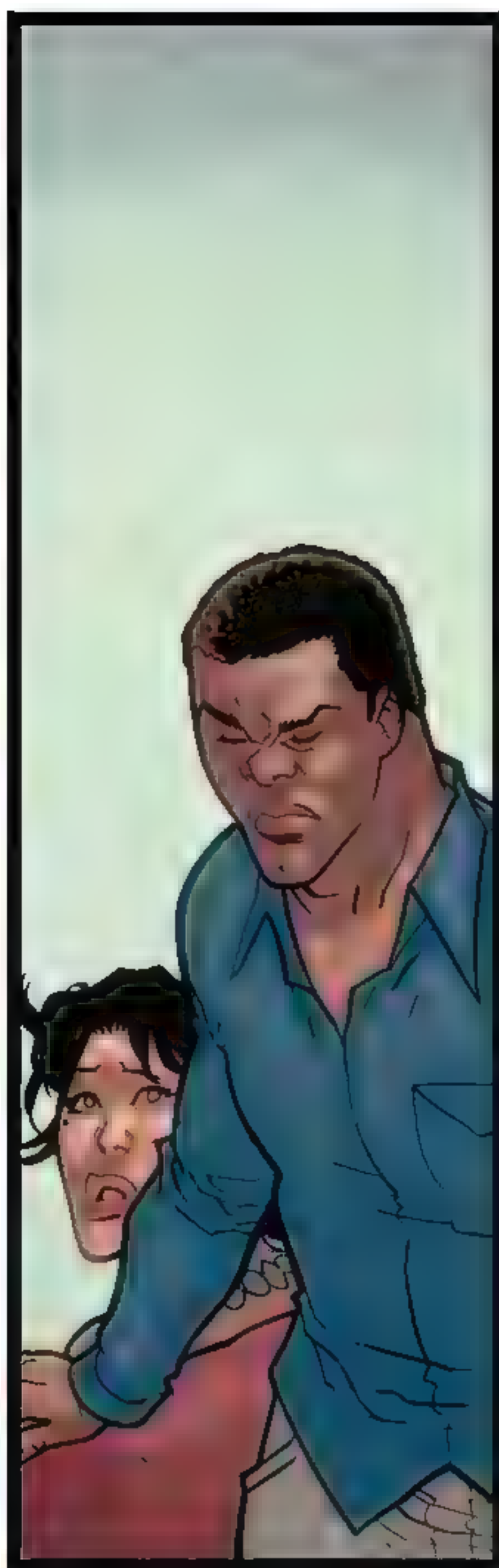
I'VE GOTTA MAKE A LIVING, MOM.

THIS GALLERY OPENING ISN'T FOR MONTHS, I CAN'T BLOW IT BY SKIPPING THIS MEETING.



HOW DID YOU AND YOUR BROTHER END UP SO DIFFERENT?

IT'S A DAMN SHAME.



THE REAL SHAME IS THAT YOU---



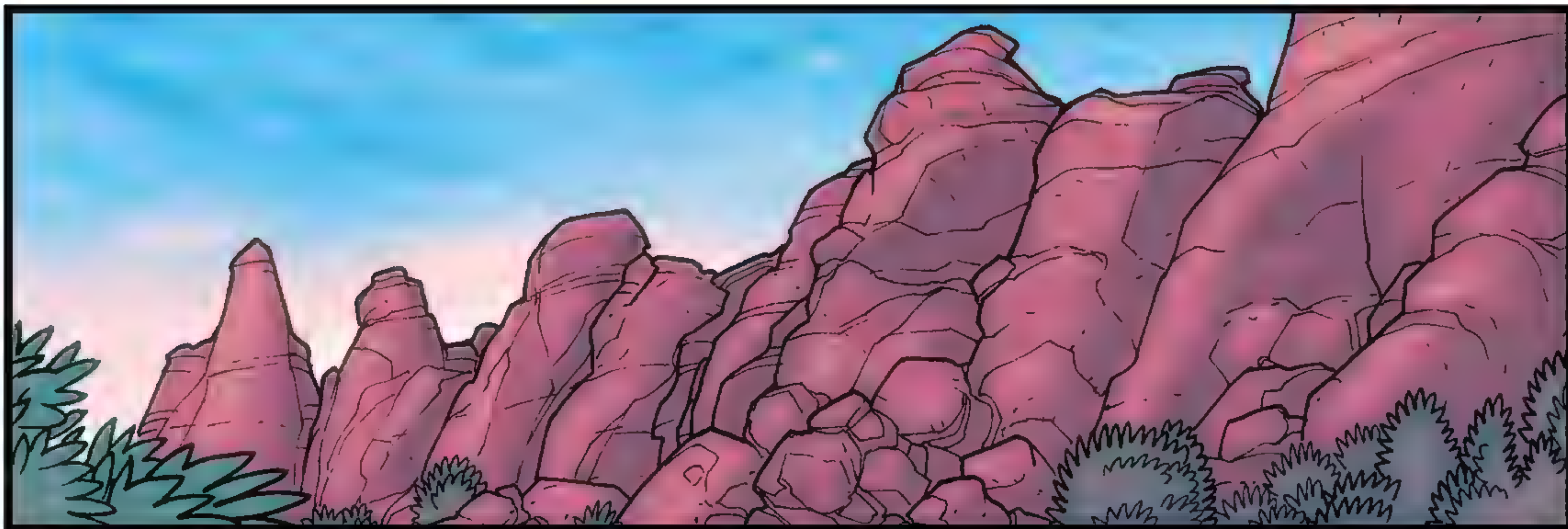
OKAY, I NEED TO BE GOING NOW. DON'T GET TOO WORRIED ABOUT WHAT'S ON THE TV, IT'S HALF A WORLD AWAY.

I HEAR TYRONE HAS A NEW COSTUME, KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR IT.

BYE.





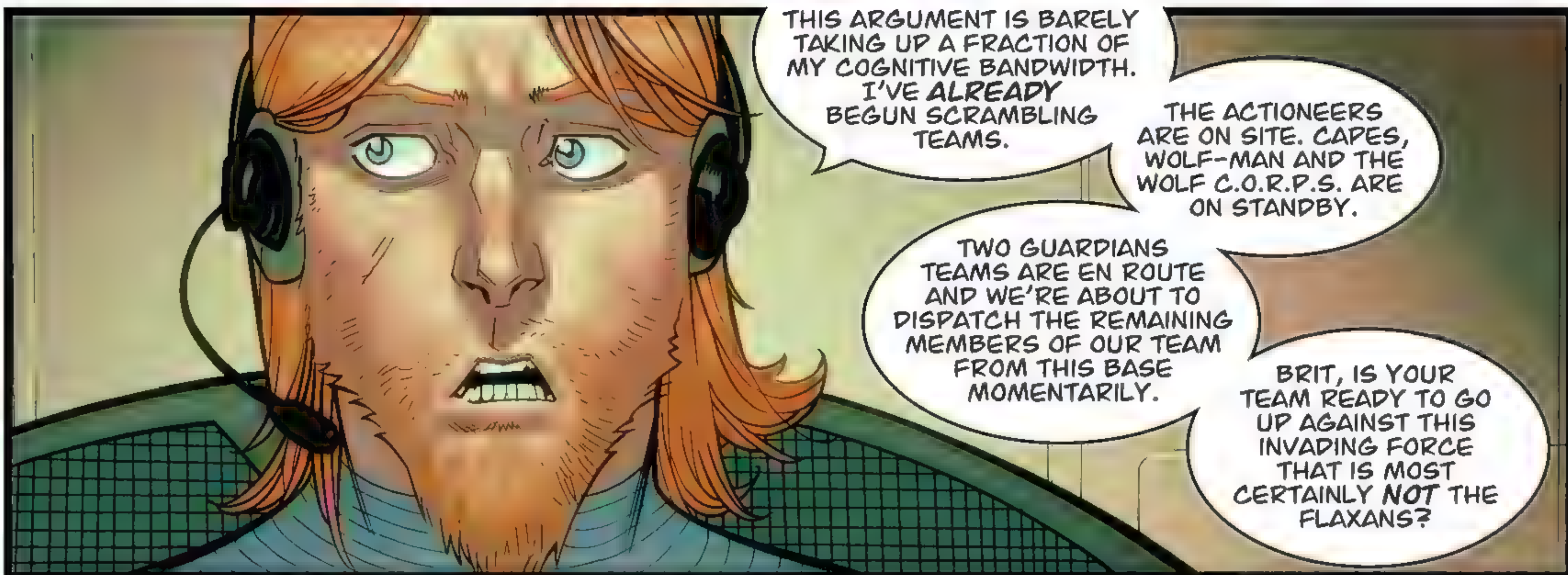


IT'S NOT THE FLAXANS. THERE IS NO WAY. THAT'S JUST NOT POSSIBLE.

IT'S SOMEONE ELSE. ANOTHER FORCE FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION, USING SIMILAR ARMOR... IT CAN'T BE THE FLAXANS.



WELL, IT SURE AS HELL LOOKS LIKE IT'S THEM! SO STOP ARGUING WITH ME AND START SCRAMBLING TEAMS!



THIS ARGUMENT IS BARELY TAKING UP A FRACTION OF MY COGNITIVE BANDWIDTH. I'VE ALREADY BEGUN SCRAMBLING TEAMS.

THE ACTIONEERS ARE ON SITE. CAPES, WOLF-MAN AND THE WOLF C.O.R.P.S. ARE ON STANDBY.

TWO GUARDIANS TEAMS ARE EN ROUTE AND WE'RE ABOUT TO DISPATCH THE REMAINING MEMBERS OF OUR TEAM FROM THIS BASE MOMENTARILY.

BRIT, IS YOUR TEAM READY TO GO UP AGAINST THIS INVADING FORCE THAT IS MOST CERTAINLY NOT THE FLAXANS?



AFFIRMATIVE.

SEND US IN, ROBOT.

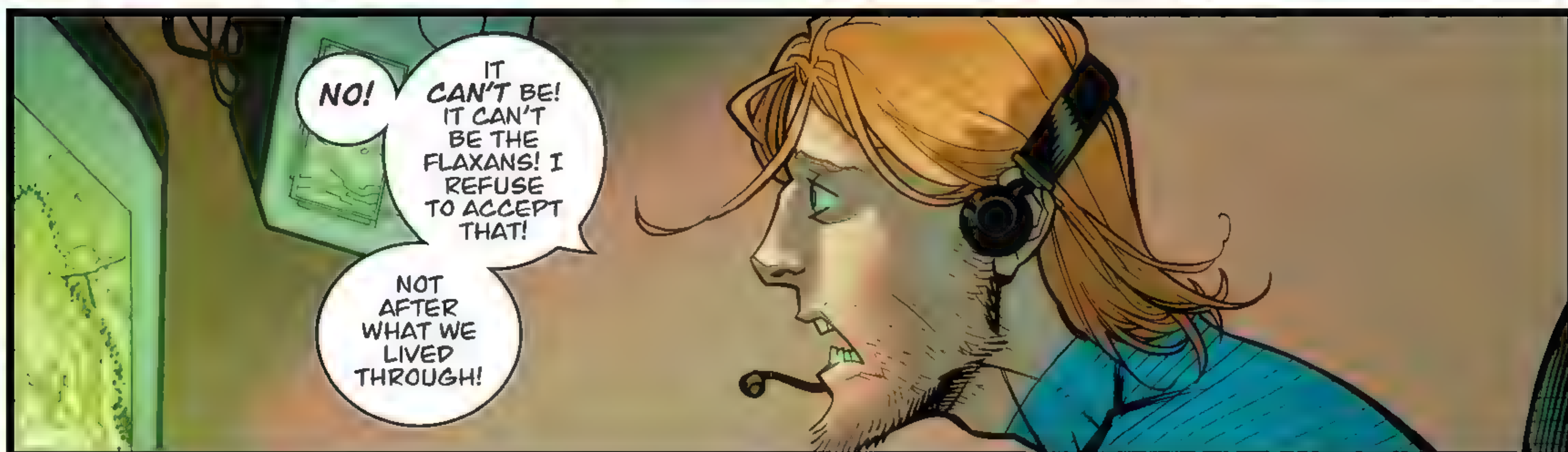




WE NOW  
JOIN SHEER  
PANDEMONIUM  
ALREADY IN  
PROGRESS!

WOW!





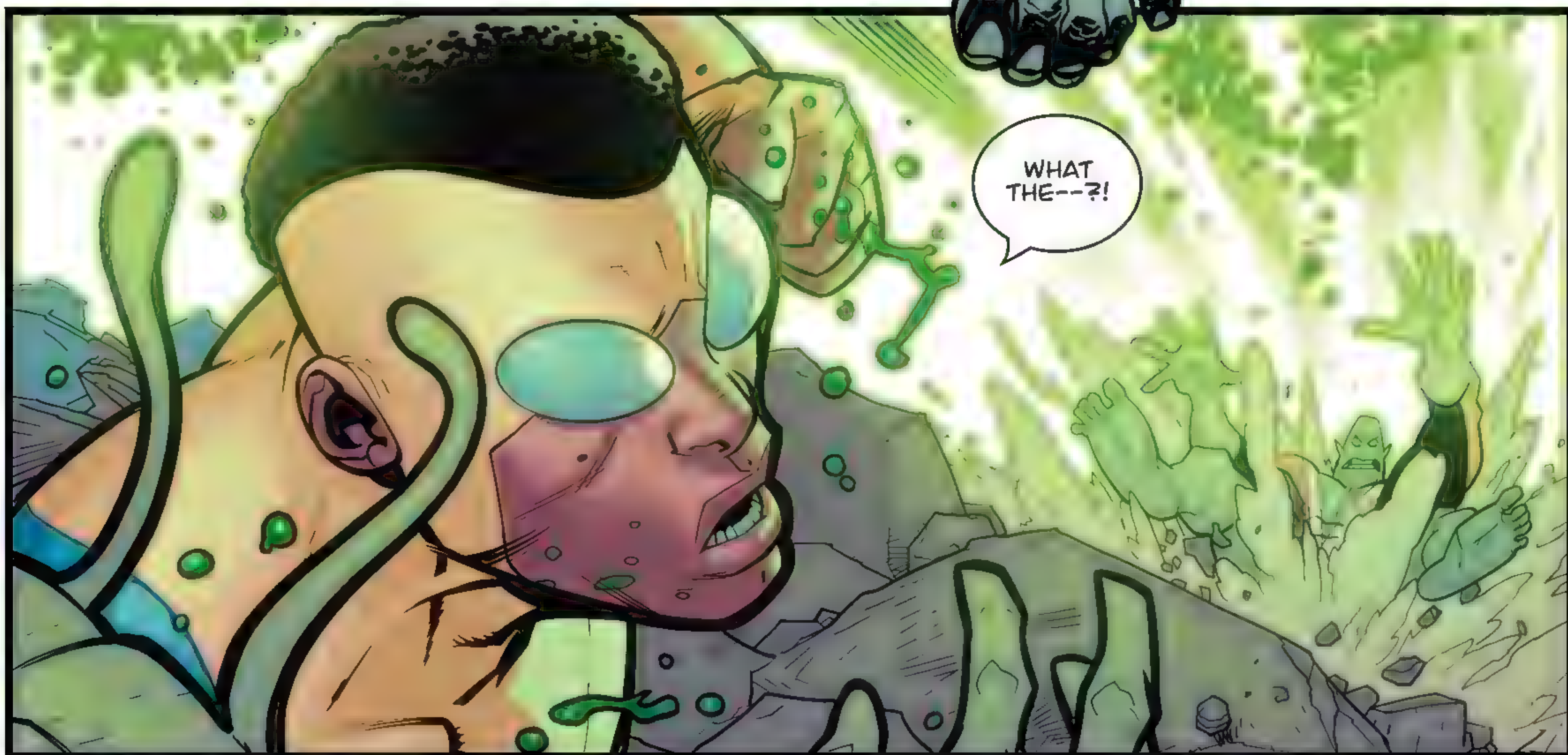


















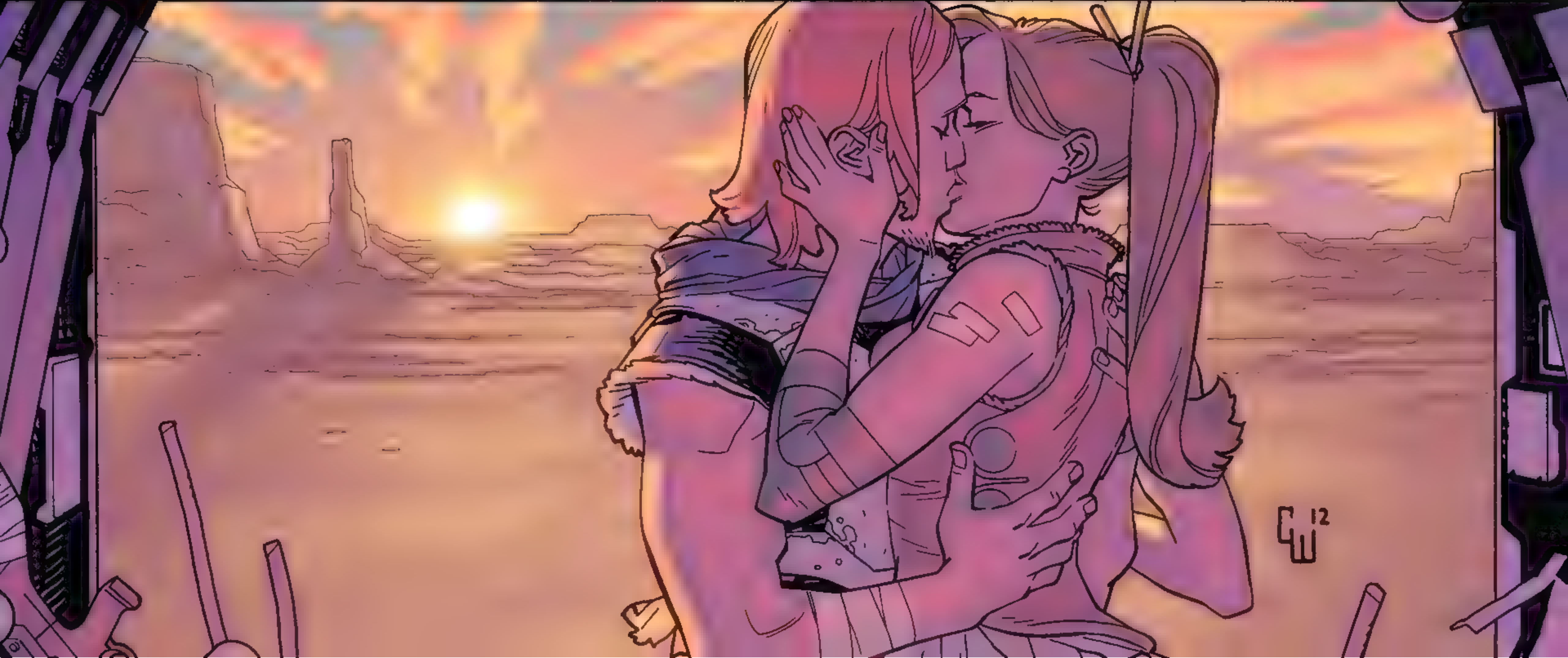




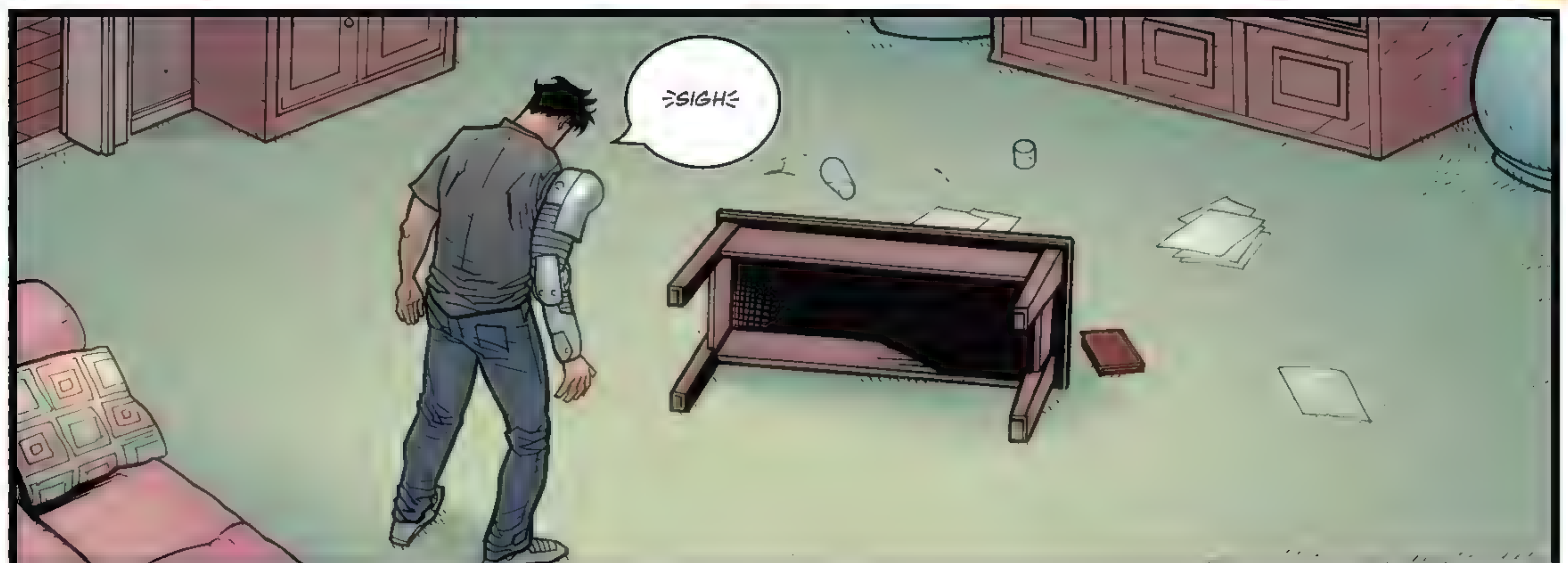
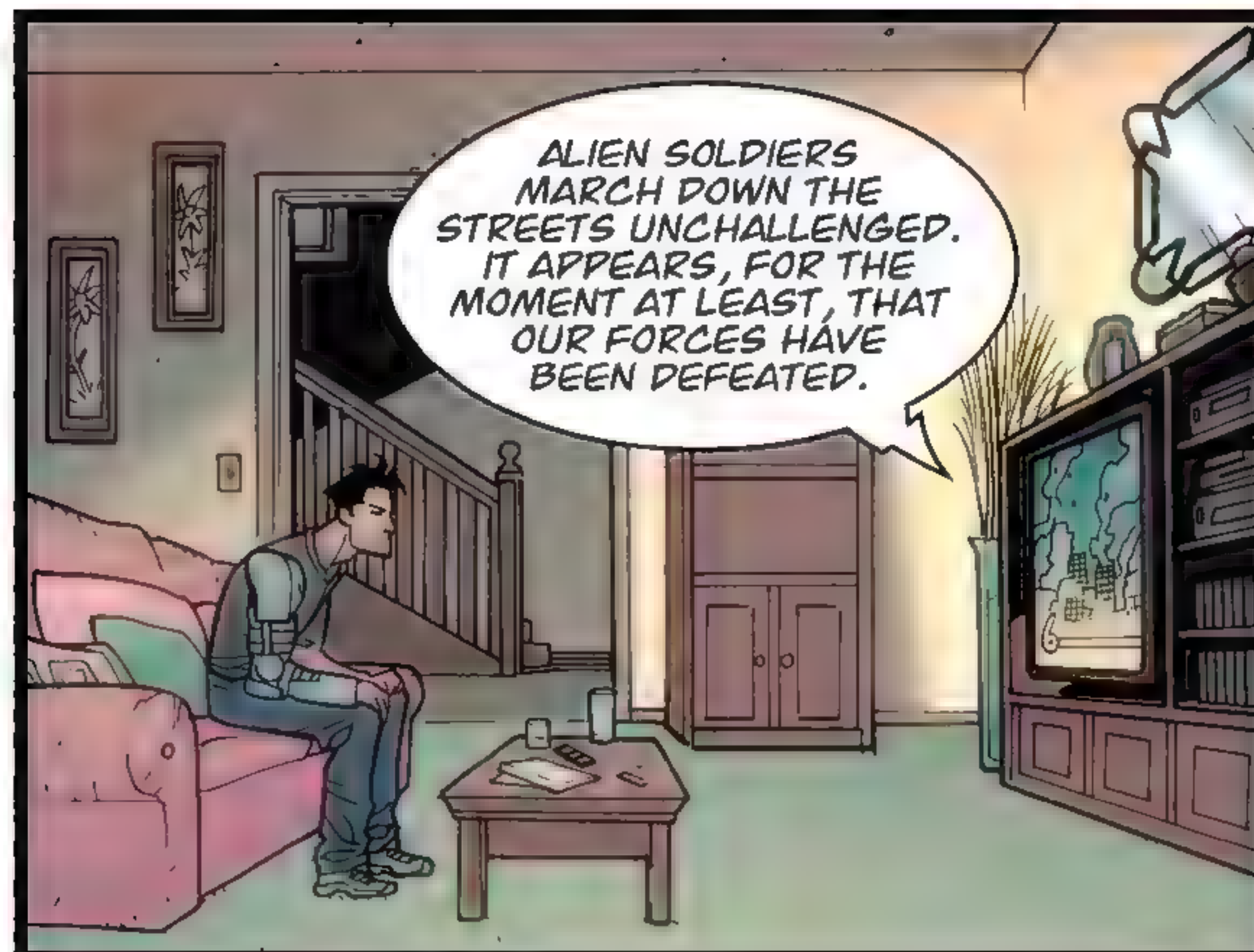




# CHAPTER FOUR



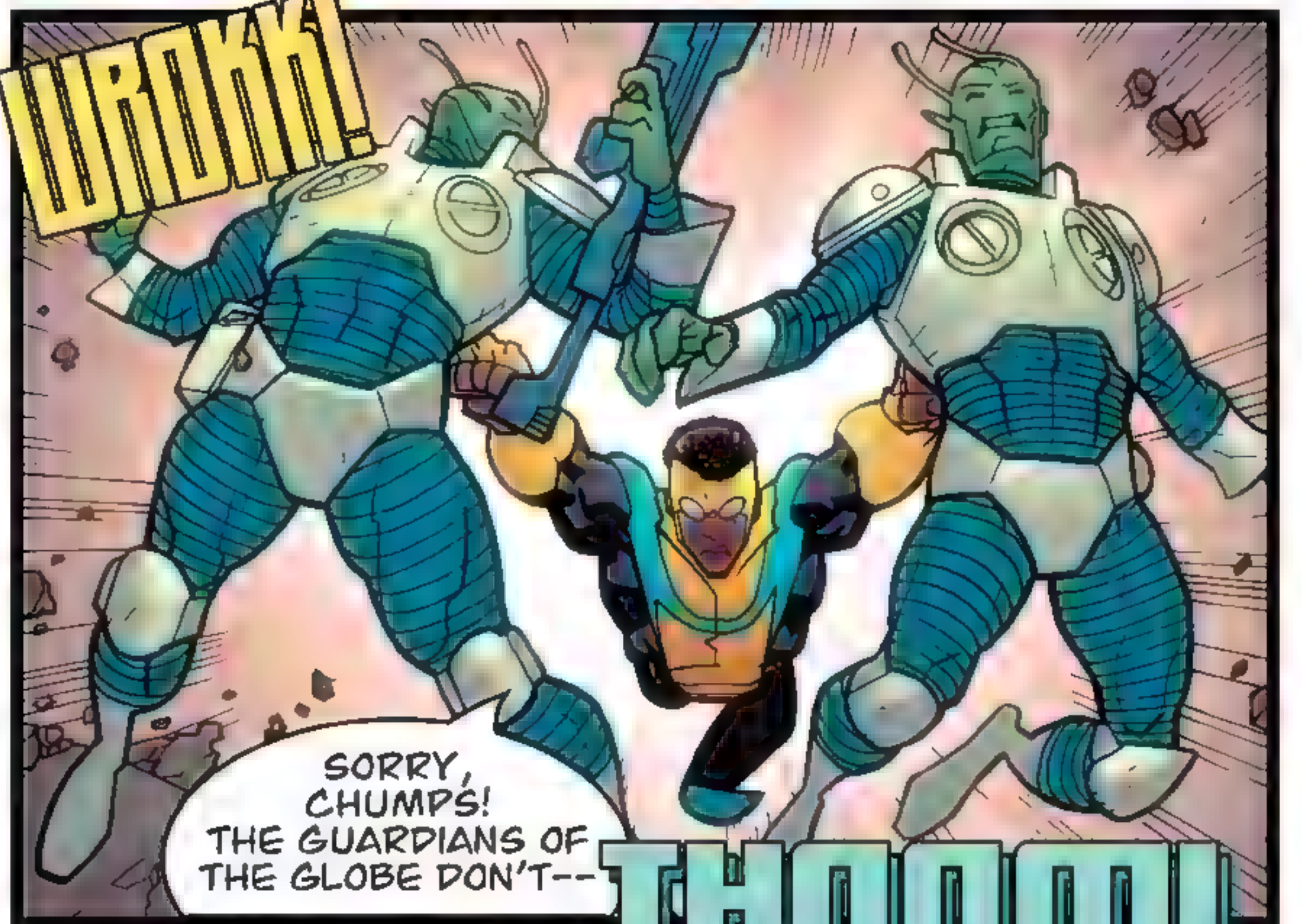
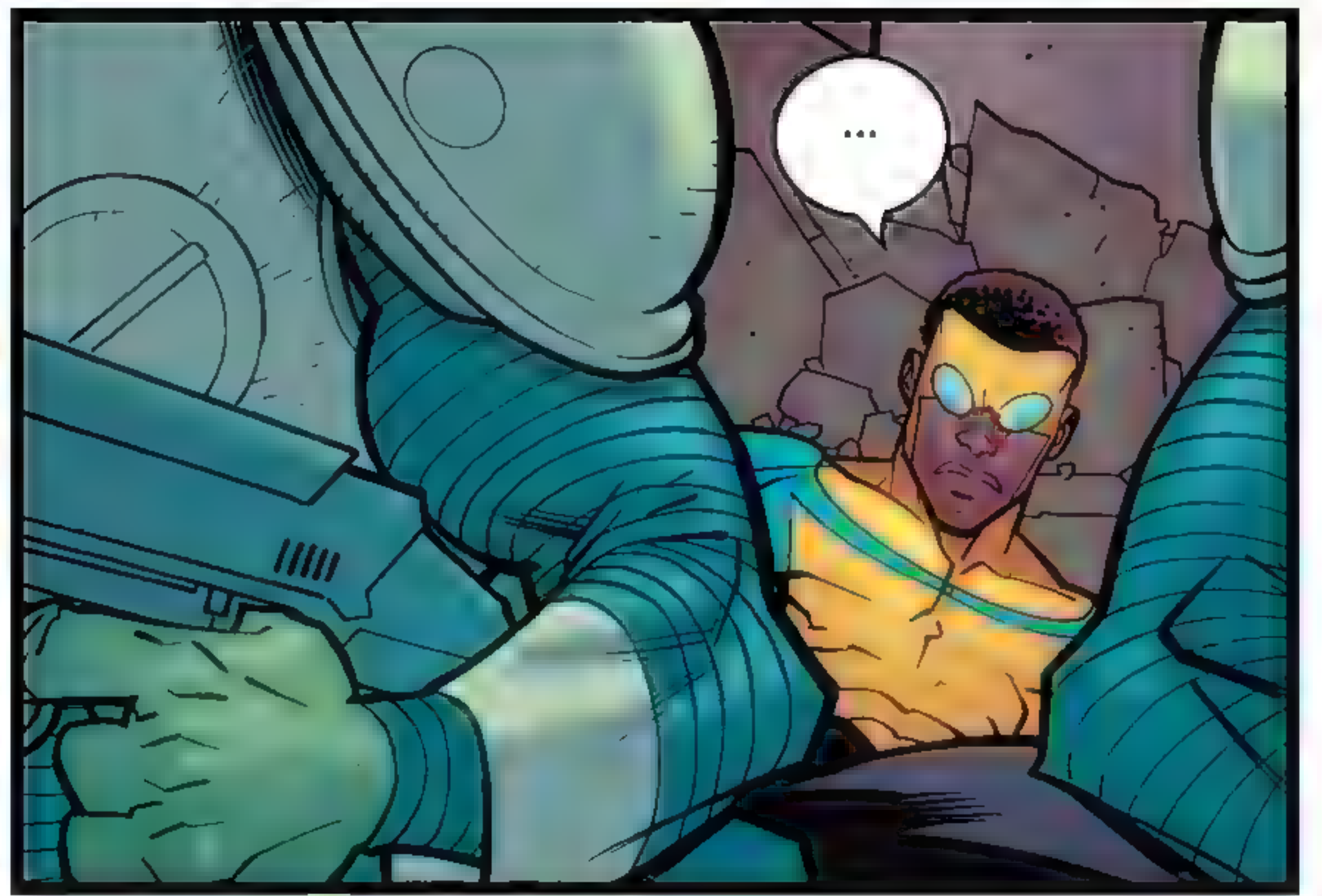














FOR THE  
RECORD, I  
WAS GOING TO  
BREAK FREE  
ON MY OWN!

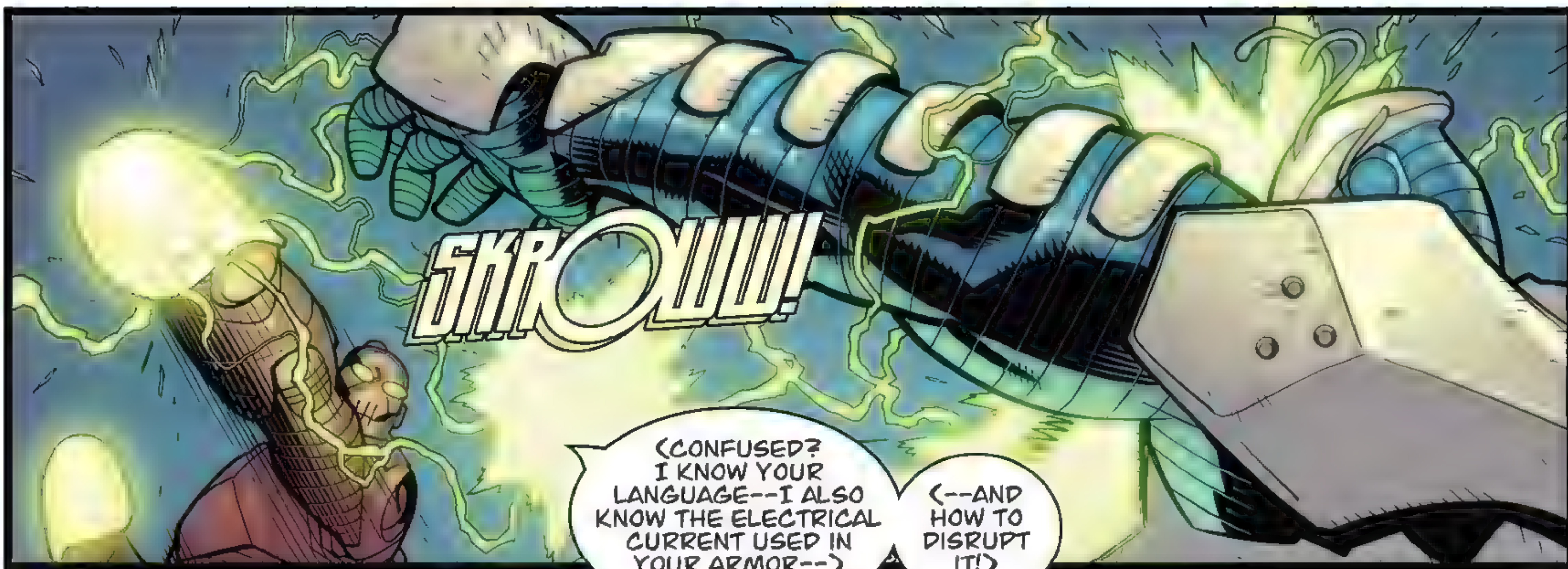
I BELIEVE  
YOU--NOW  
HELP MY  
DRONES  
WITH THE  
SOLDIERS--

THIS  
ONE IS  
MINE!

THOOOM!

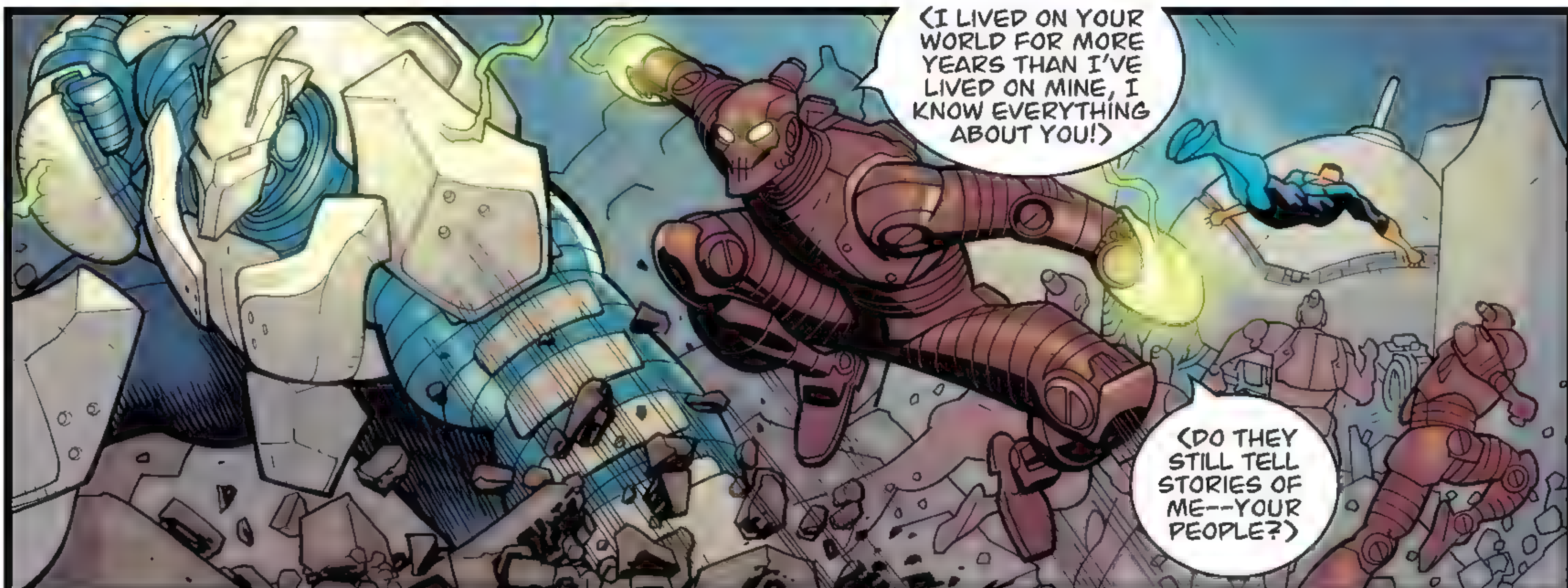






(CONFUSED?  
I KNOW YOUR  
LANGUAGE--I ALSO  
KNOW THE ELECTRICAL  
CURRENT USED IN  
YOUR ARMOR--)

(--AND  
HOW TO  
DISRUPT  
IT!)



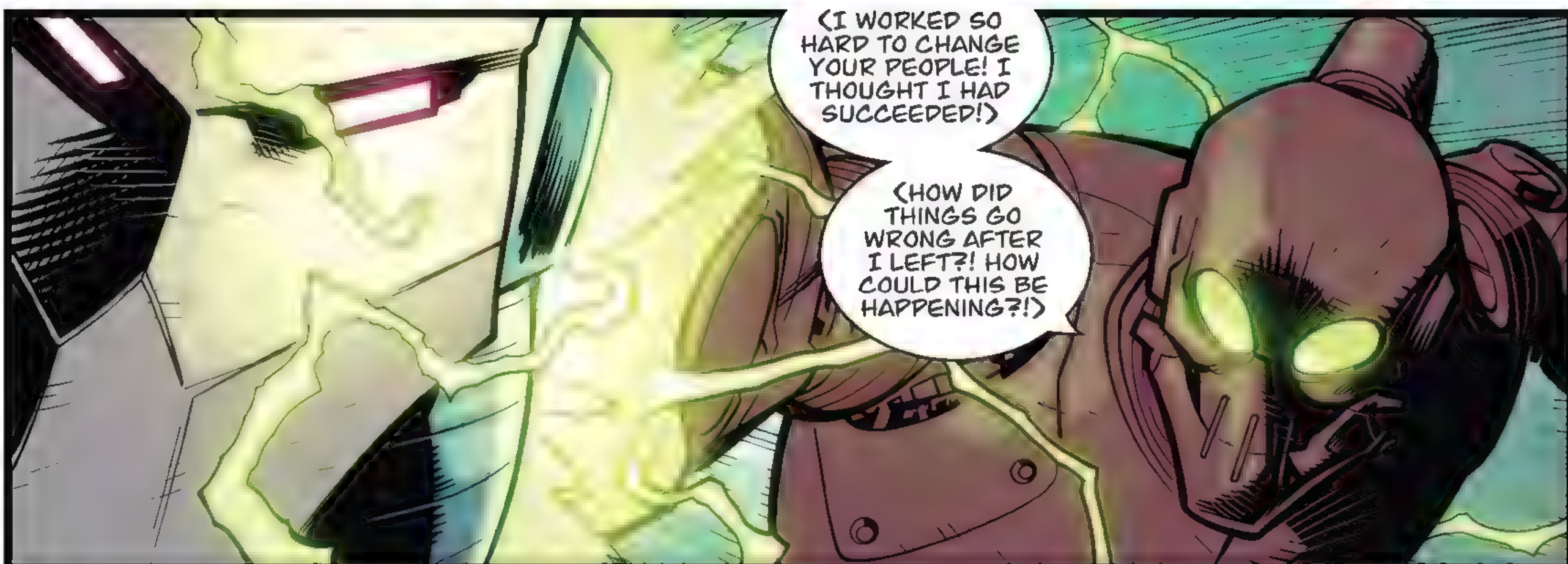
(I LIVED ON YOUR  
WORLD FOR MORE  
YEARS THAN I'VE  
LIVED ON MINE, I  
KNOW EVERYTHING  
ABOUT YOU!)

(DO THEY  
STILL TELL  
STORIES OF  
ME--YOUR  
PEOPLE?)



(I CHANGED THE  
COURSE OF YOUR  
CIVILIZATION, YOU  
KNOW... OR AT  
LEAST--I THOUGHT  
I DID...)

(DID YOU  
TAKE COMMAND  
BY FORCE? FIGHT  
TO RETURN THE  
FLAXANS TO THE  
OLD WAYS--  
THE WARRING  
WAYS?!)



(I WORKED SO  
HARD TO CHANGE  
YOUR PEOPLE! I  
THOUGHT I HAD  
SUCCEEDED!)

(HOW DID  
THINGS GO  
WRONG AFTER  
I LEFT?! HOW  
COULD THIS BE  
HAPPENING?!)





(MY ARMY HAS SECURED ALL CORNERS OF THIS CONTINENT... WE'VE INSPIRED COUNTLESS SLAVES TO RISE UP AND JOIN OUR CAUSE...)

(...BUT WE WILL NOT SURVIVE THIS UPCOMING BATTLE WITH THE FLAXAN ARMIES IF WE DO NOT JOIN FORCES.)



(YOU SAY FLAXAN, YET YOU MEAN THE ZAXAL ROYAL FAMILY--- THE RULING CLASS WHOSE BLOODLINE HAS COMMANDED US FOR EONS.)

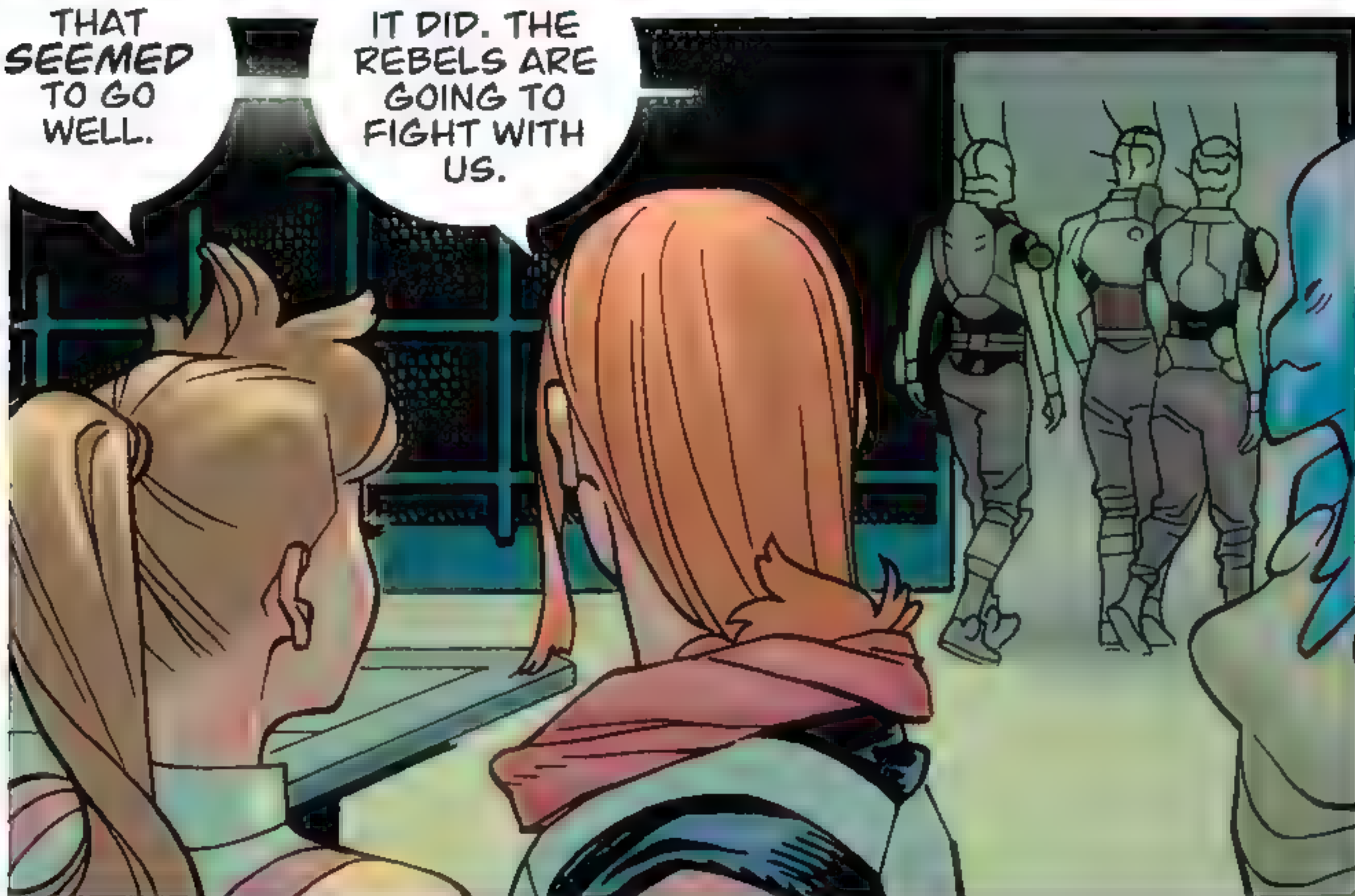
(WE ARE FLAXAN AND YET WE, LIKE YOU, STAND AGAINST THEIR FORCES.)

(AND WE WILL STAND WITH YOU.)



THAT SEEMED TO GO WELL.

IT DID. THE REBELS ARE GOING TO FIGHT WITH US.



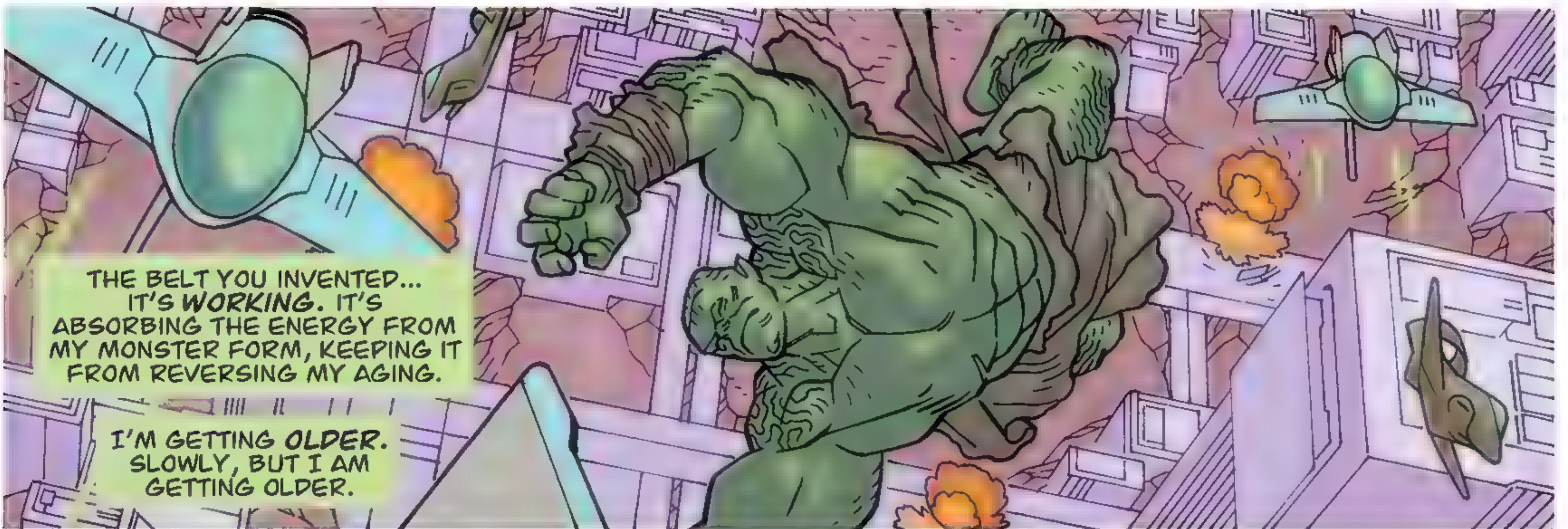
SWEET.

WE MAY JUST SURVIVE THE NEXT FEW DECADES OF THIS WAR.





WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S  
WRONG, AMANDA?



THE BELT YOU INVENTED...  
IT'S **WORKING**. IT'S  
ABSORBING THE ENERGY FROM  
MY MONSTER FORM, KEEPING IT  
FROM REVERSING MY AGING.

I'M GETTING **OLDER**.  
SLOWLY, BUT I AM  
GETTING **OLDER**.



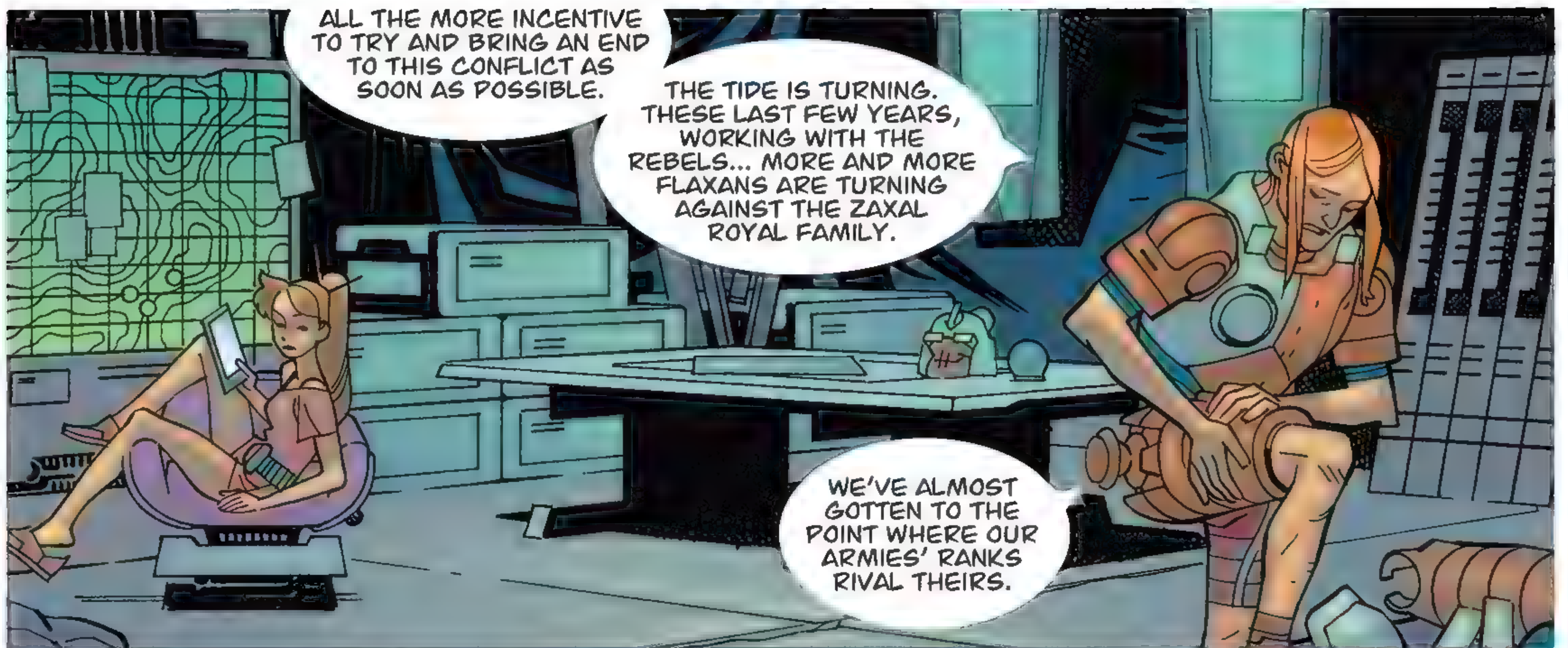
THAT'S GREAT.  
THAT'S WHAT YOU  
**WANTED**, RIGHT?

YES, BUT...



IF THIS WAR RAGES ON... AND I KNOW  
I'M RIGHT WHEN I SAY THERE'S NO  
END IN SIGHT... IT WILL EVENTUALLY  
GET TO A POINT WHEN I'M **USELESS**  
IN BATTLE.





ALL THE MORE INCENTIVE TO TRY AND BRING AN END TO THIS CONFLICT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

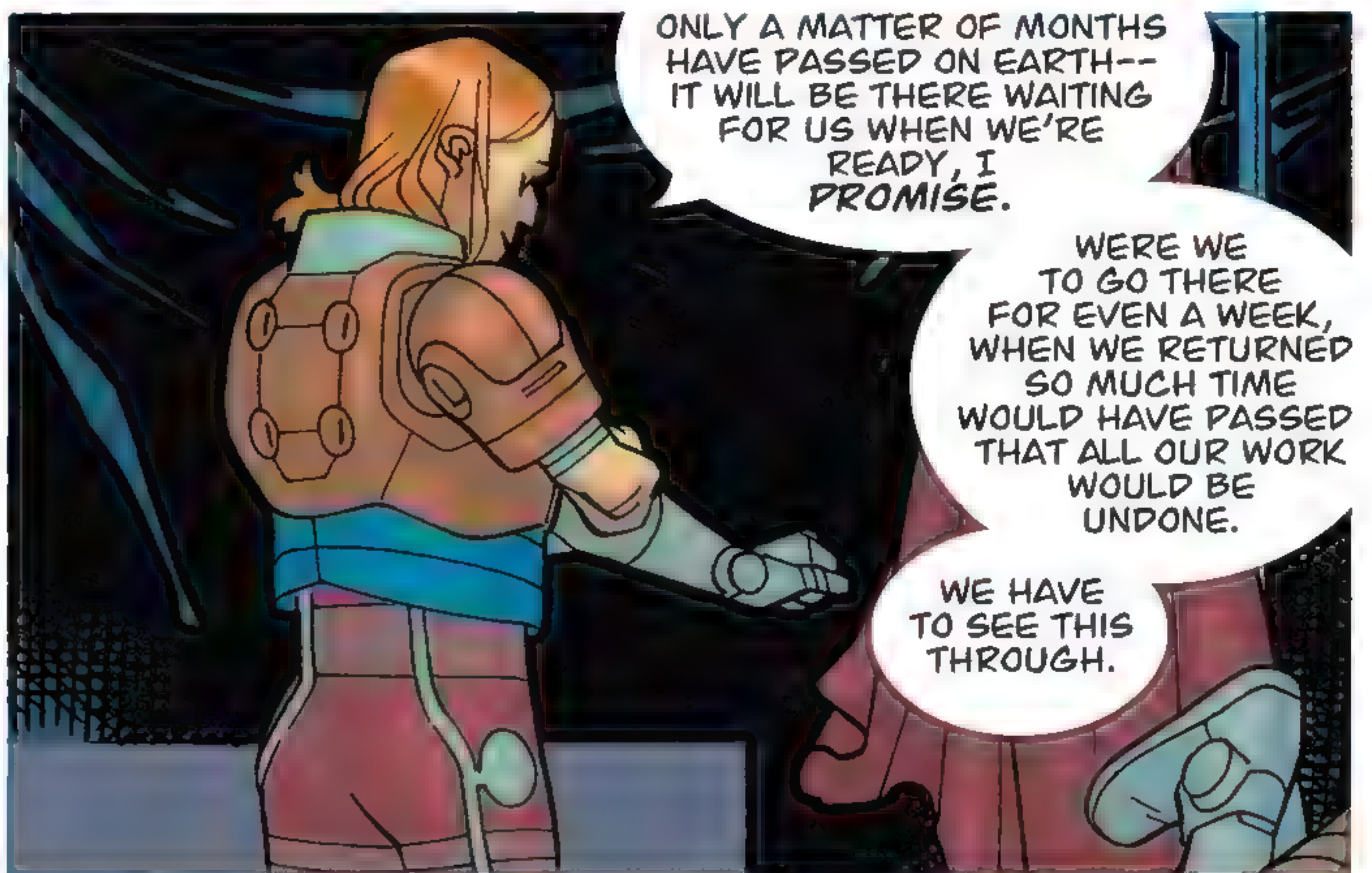
THE TIDE IS TURNING. THESE LAST FEW YEARS, WORKING WITH THE REBELS... MORE AND MORE FLAXANS ARE TURNING AGAINST THE ZAXAL ROYAL FAMILY.

WE'VE ALMOST GOTTEN TO THE POINT WHERE OUR ARMIES' RANKS RIVAL THEIRS.

FANTASTIC, SO... WE'RE ALMOST EVENLY MATCHED?

HOW LONG ARE WE GOING TO BE HERE? THIS WORLD, I... WE'VE ALREADY LIVED HERE FAR LONGER THAN WE EVER LIVED ON EARTH, BUT I STILL FEEL LIKE WE DON'T BELONG.

CAN'T WE ATTACK ONE OF THEIR DIMENSIONAL HUBS, GO BACK FOR JUST A LITTLE BIT?



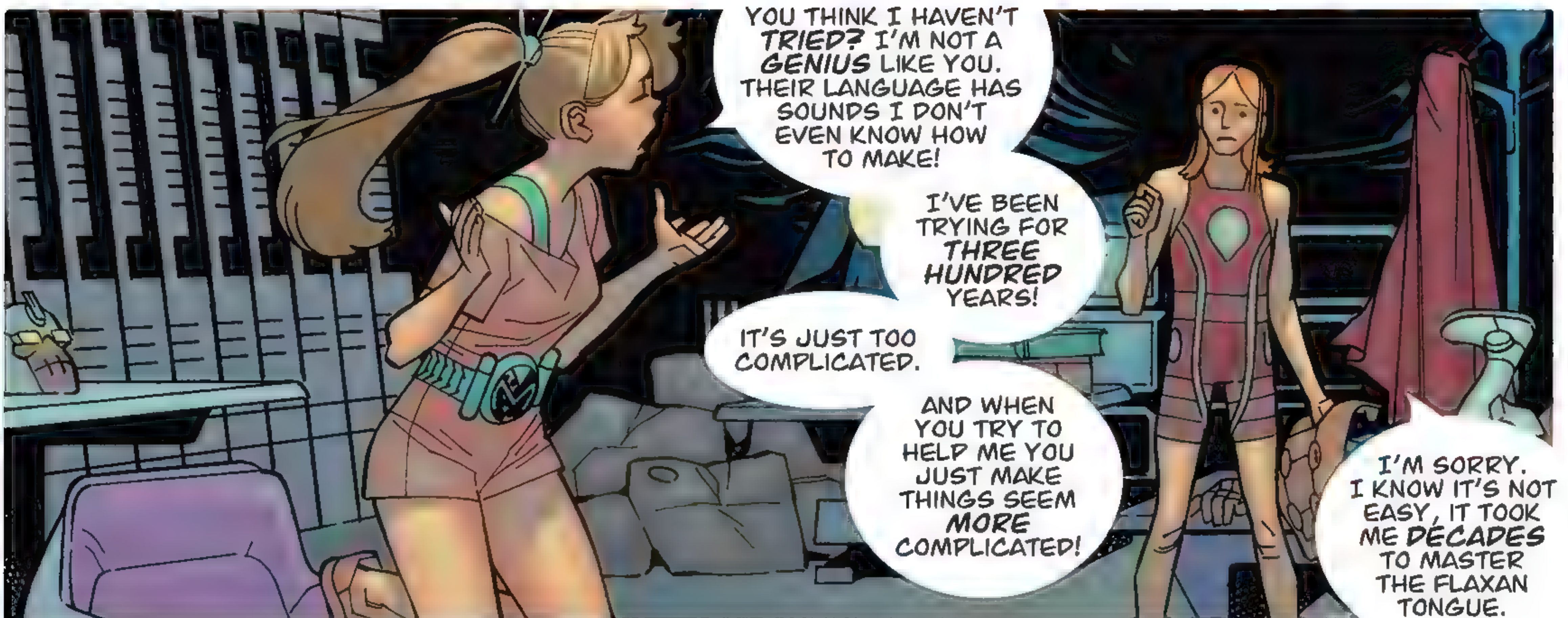
ONLY A MATTER OF MONTHS HAVE PASSED ON EARTH-- IT WILL BE THERE WAITING FOR US WHEN WE'RE READY, I PROMISE.

WERE WE TO GO THERE FOR EVEN A WEEK, WHEN WE RETURNED SO MUCH TIME WOULD HAVE PASSED THAT ALL OUR WORK WOULD BE UNDONE.

WE HAVE TO SEE THIS THROUGH.

I'M SORRY, BUT... IF YOU COULD JUST...

...LEARN THE LANGUAGE. I THINK YOU'D HAVE AN EASIER TIME IF YOU COULD COMMUNICATE WITH SOMEONE OTHER THAN ME.



YOU THINK I HAVEN'T TRIED? I'M NOT A GENIUS LIKE YOU. THEIR LANGUAGE HAS SOUNDS I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO MAKE!

I'VE BEEN TRYING FOR THREE HUNDRED YEARS!

IT'S JUST TOO COMPLICATED.

AND WHEN YOU TRY TO HELP ME YOU JUST MAKE THINGS SEEM MORE COMPLICATED!

I'M SORRY. I KNOW IT'S NOT EASY, IT TOOK ME DECADES TO MASTER THE FLAXAN TONGUE.

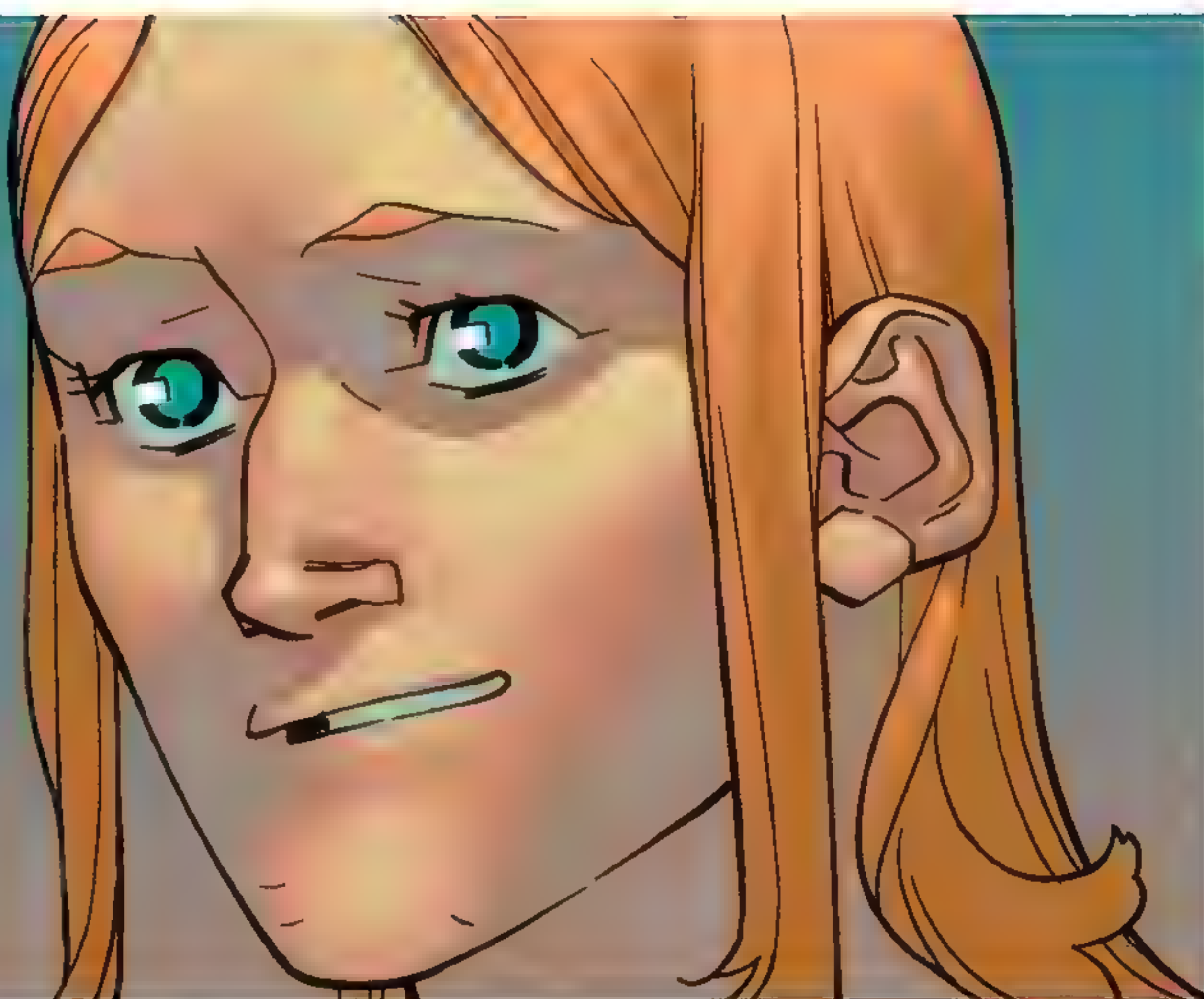


I'M SORRY, I DIDN'T MEAN TO UPSET YOU. I KNOW THIS ISN'T EASY FOR YOU. ALL I CAN SAY IS THAT WHAT WE'RE DOING IS NOTHING LESS THAN SAVING OUR WORLD.

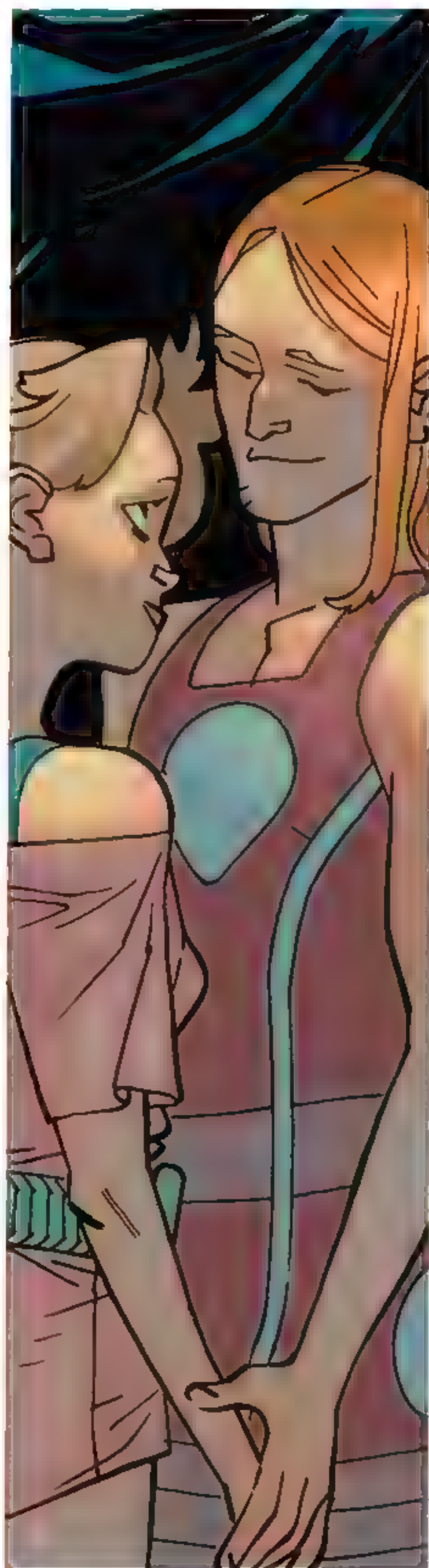
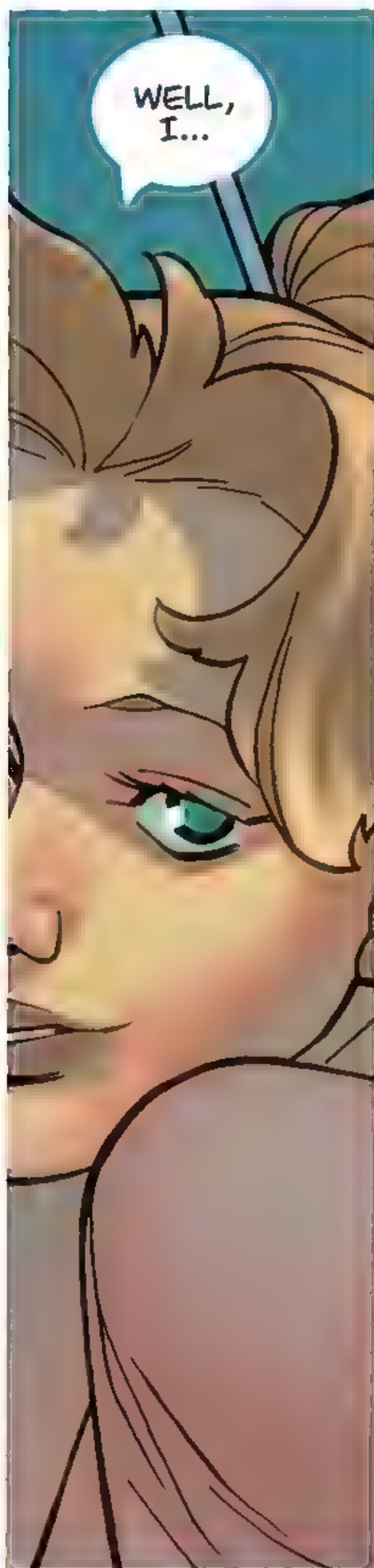
AND WHILE IT WILL MOST DEFINITELY BE THE LONGEST STRETCH OF TIME ANY HUMAN HAS EVER EXPERIENCED, ASIDE FROM MAYBE THE IMMORTAL... IT WILL BE TEMPORARY.

FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH... IF I COULD HAVE CHOSEN ANYONE TO ACCOMPANY ME ON THIS MISSION...

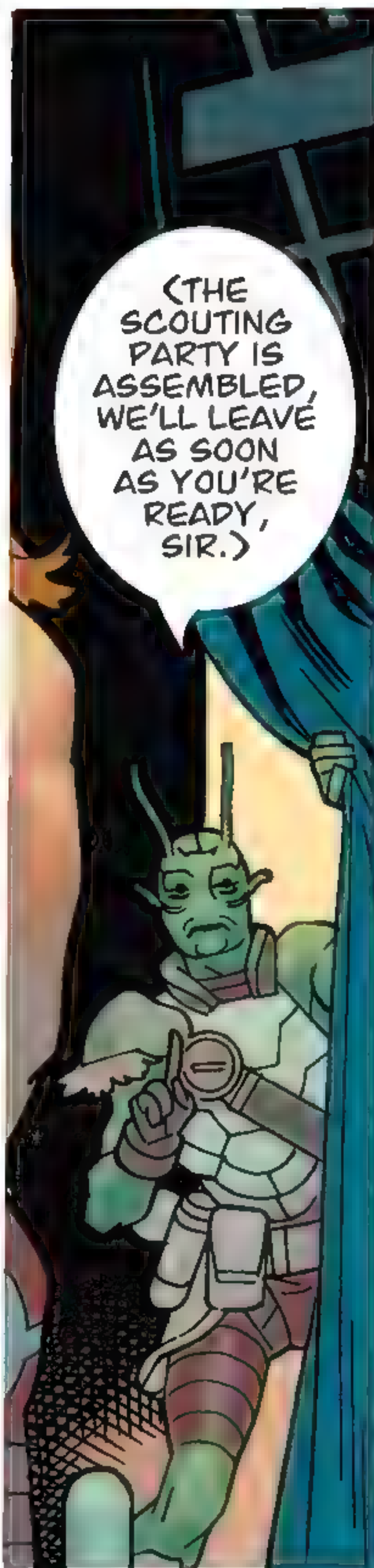
...IT WOULD HAVE BEEN YOU.



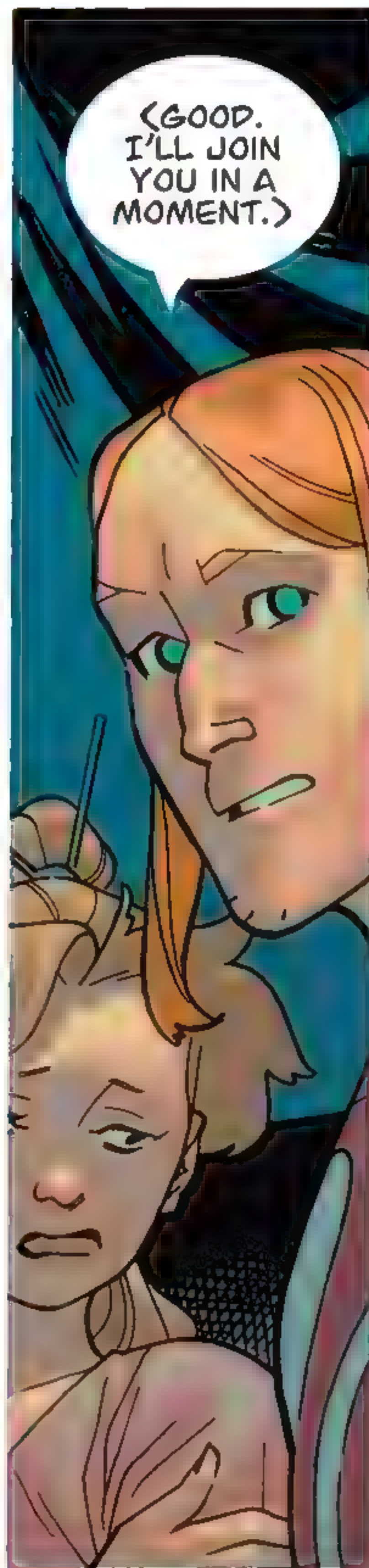
WELL, I...



(THE SCOUTING PARTY IS ASSEMBLED, WE'LL LEAVE AS SOON AS YOU'RE READY, SIR.)

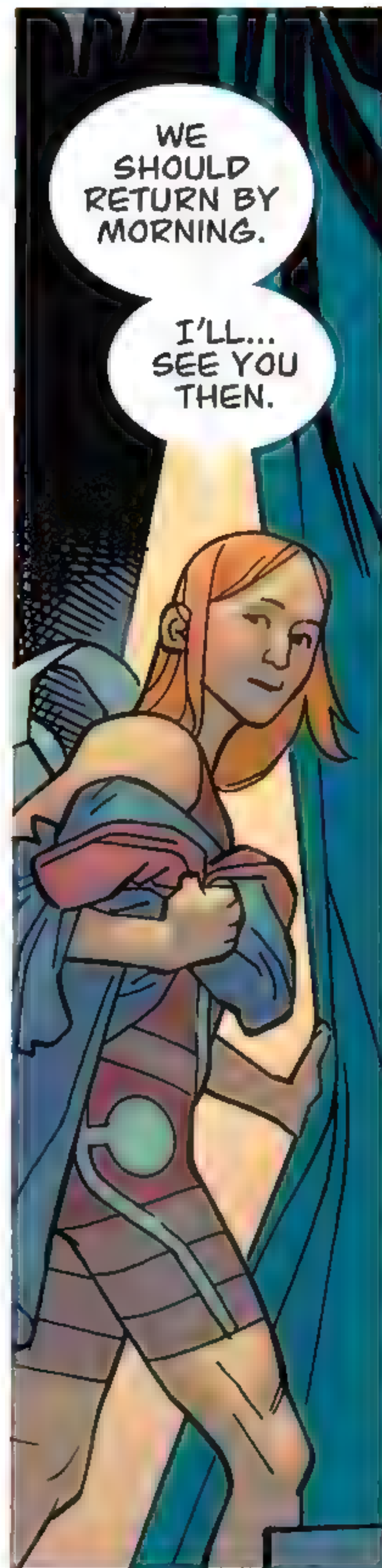


(GOOD. I'LL JOIN YOU IN A MOMENT.)



WE SHOULD RETURN BY MORNING.

I'LL... SEE YOU THEN.

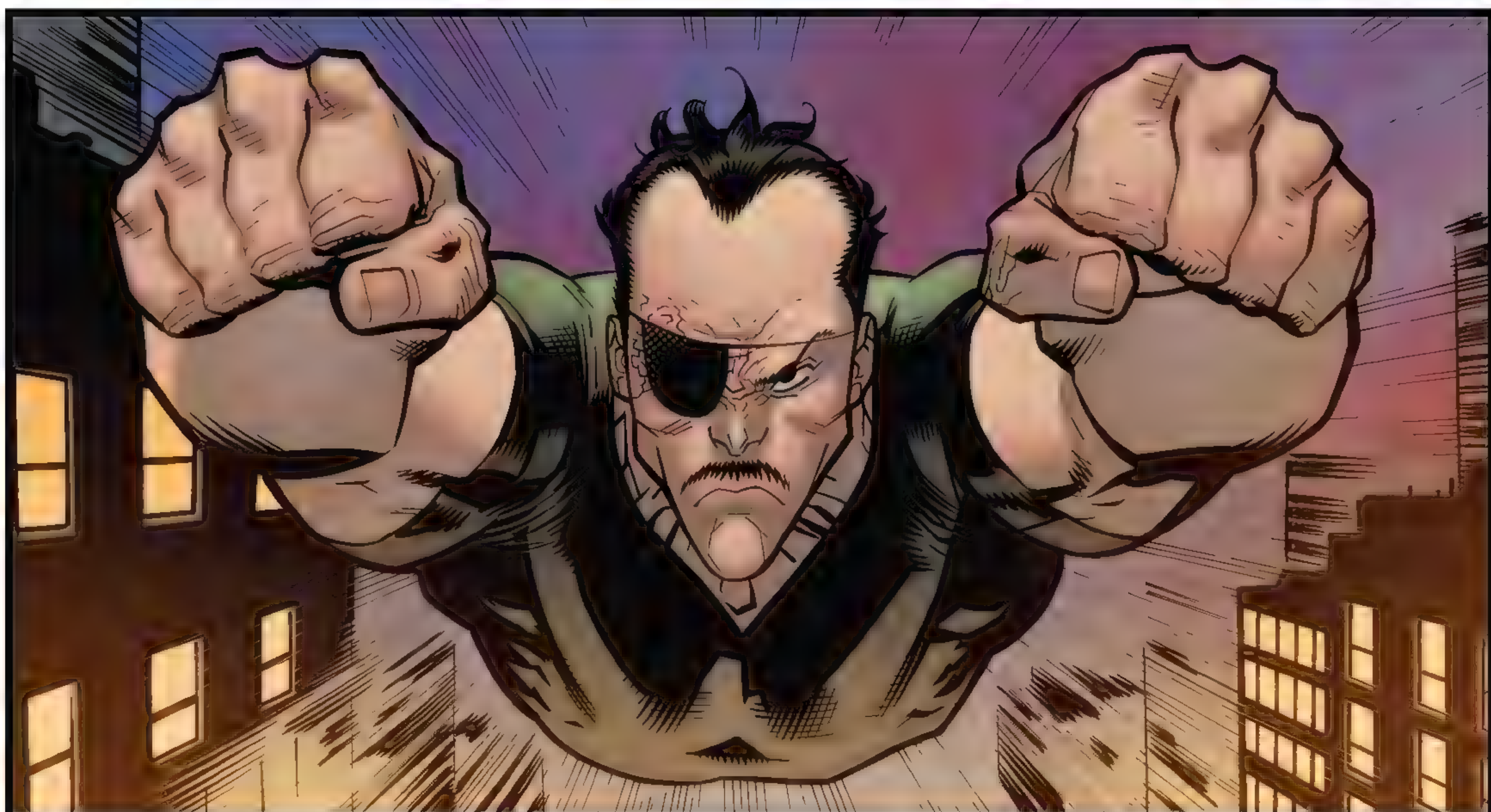
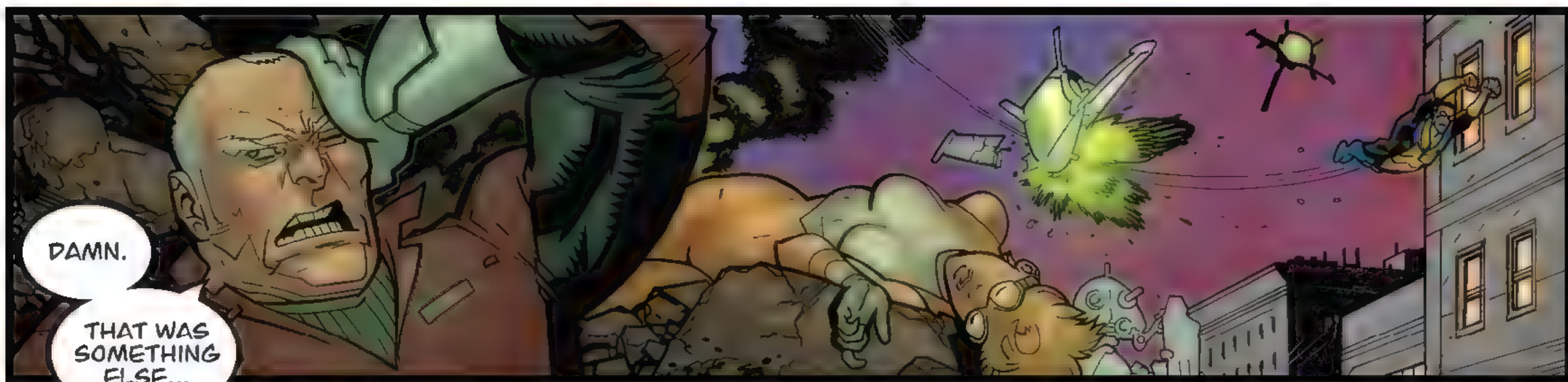


YEAH.

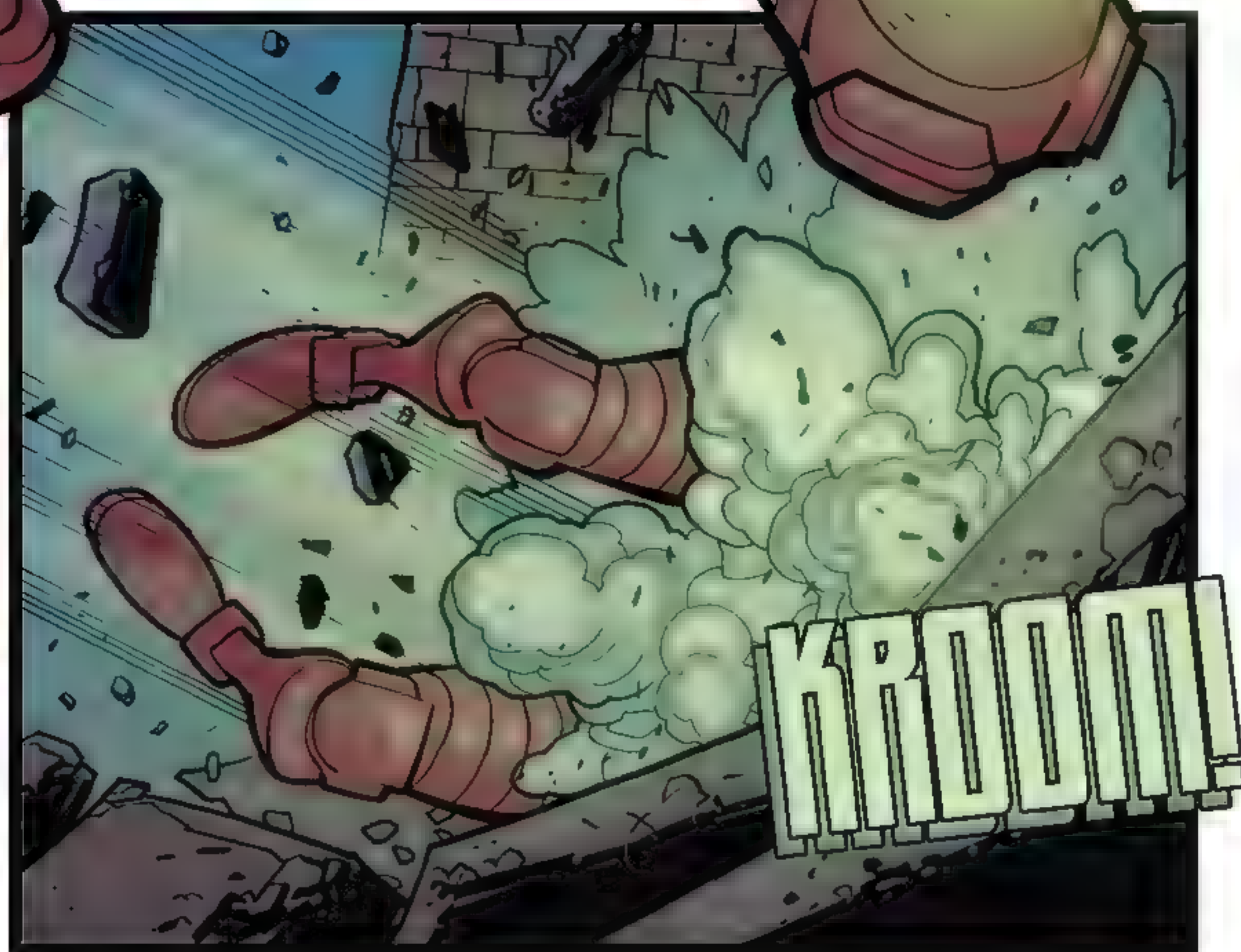
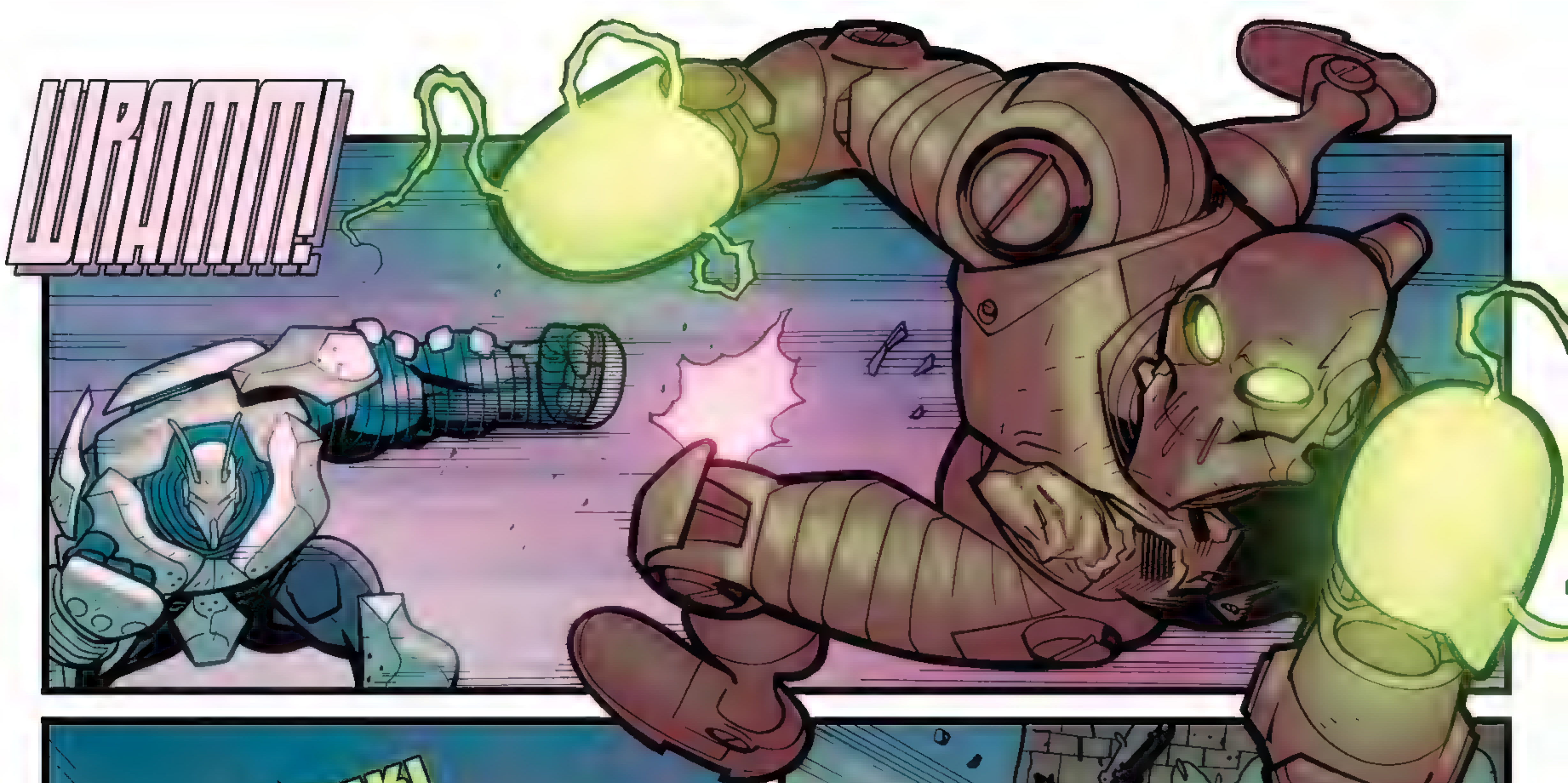
...







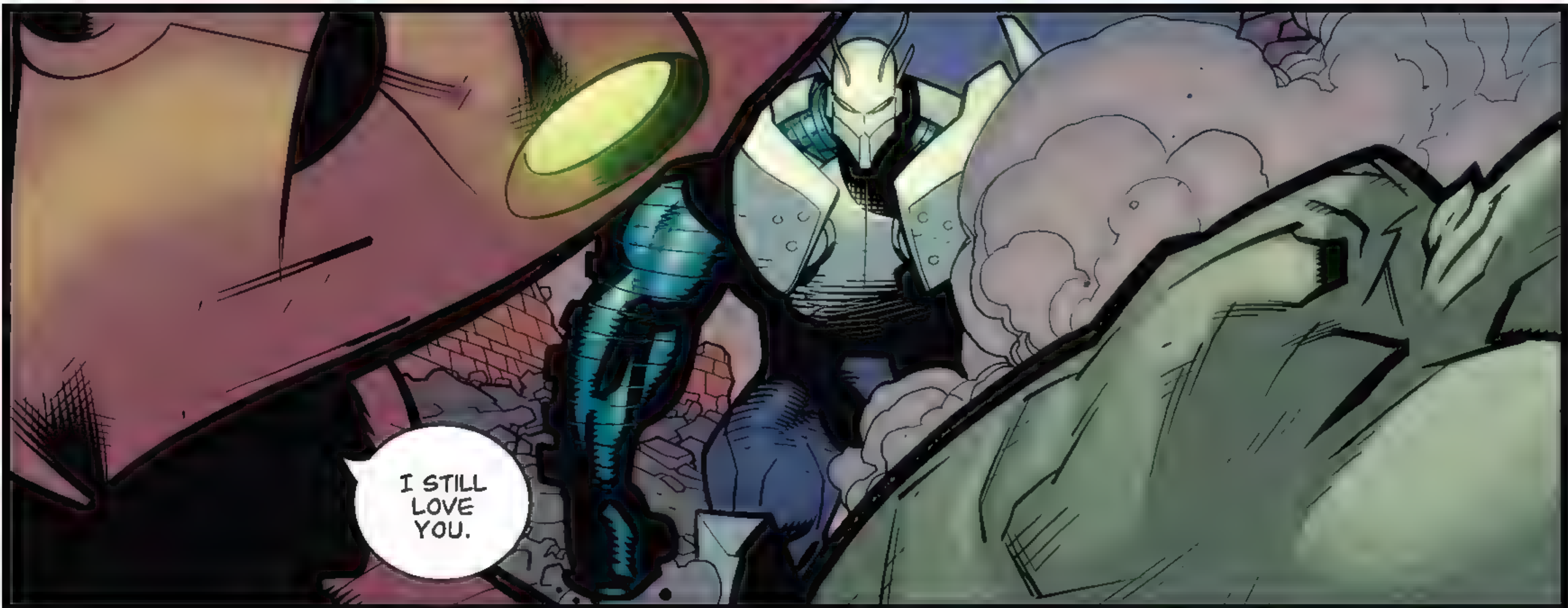
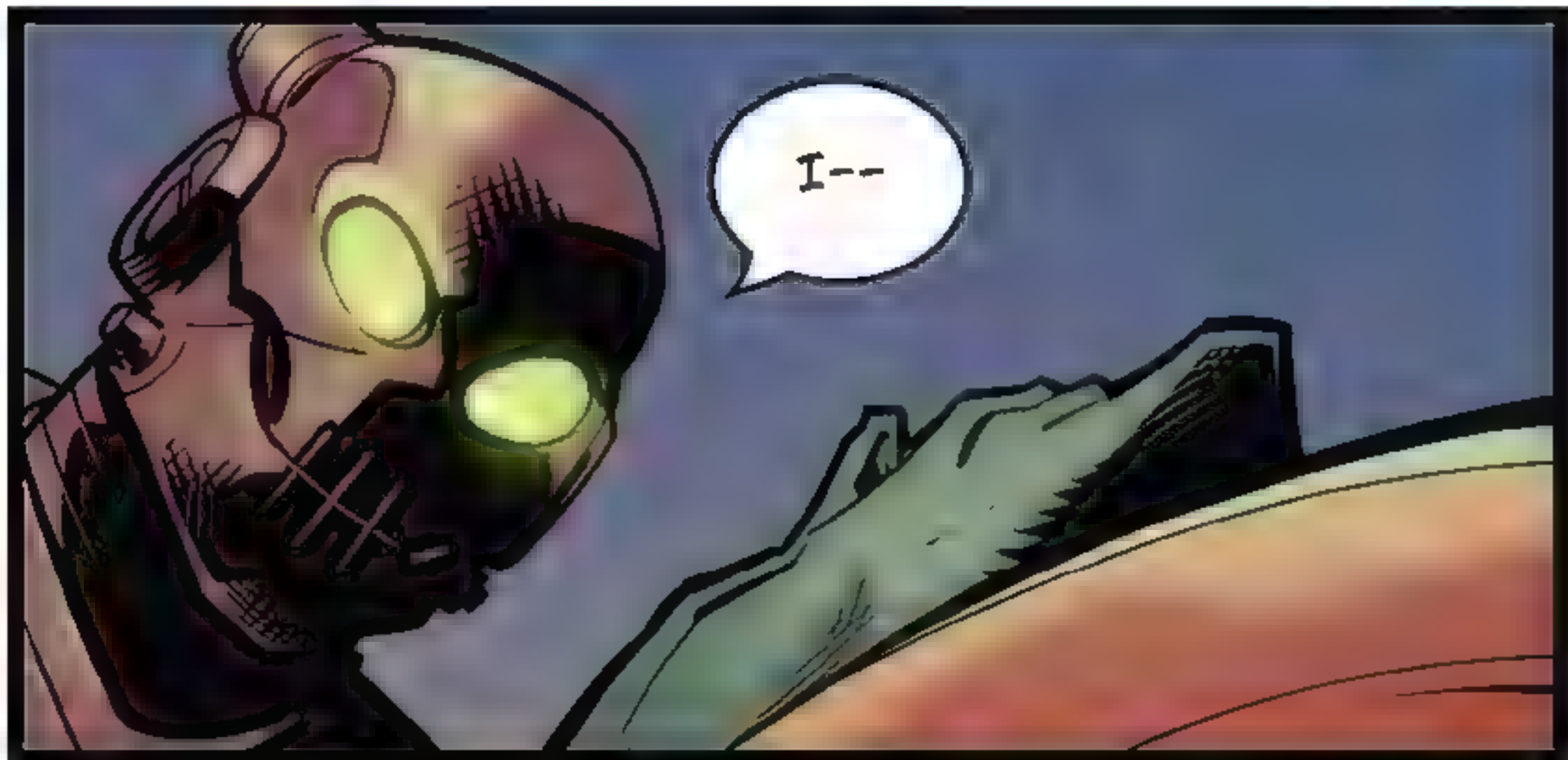
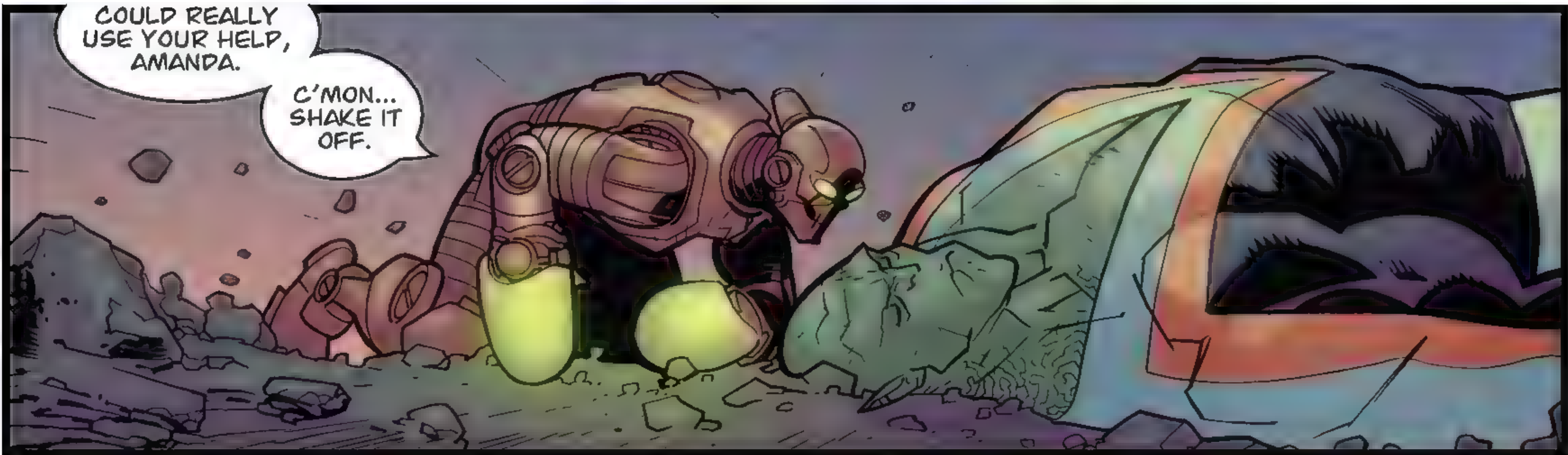










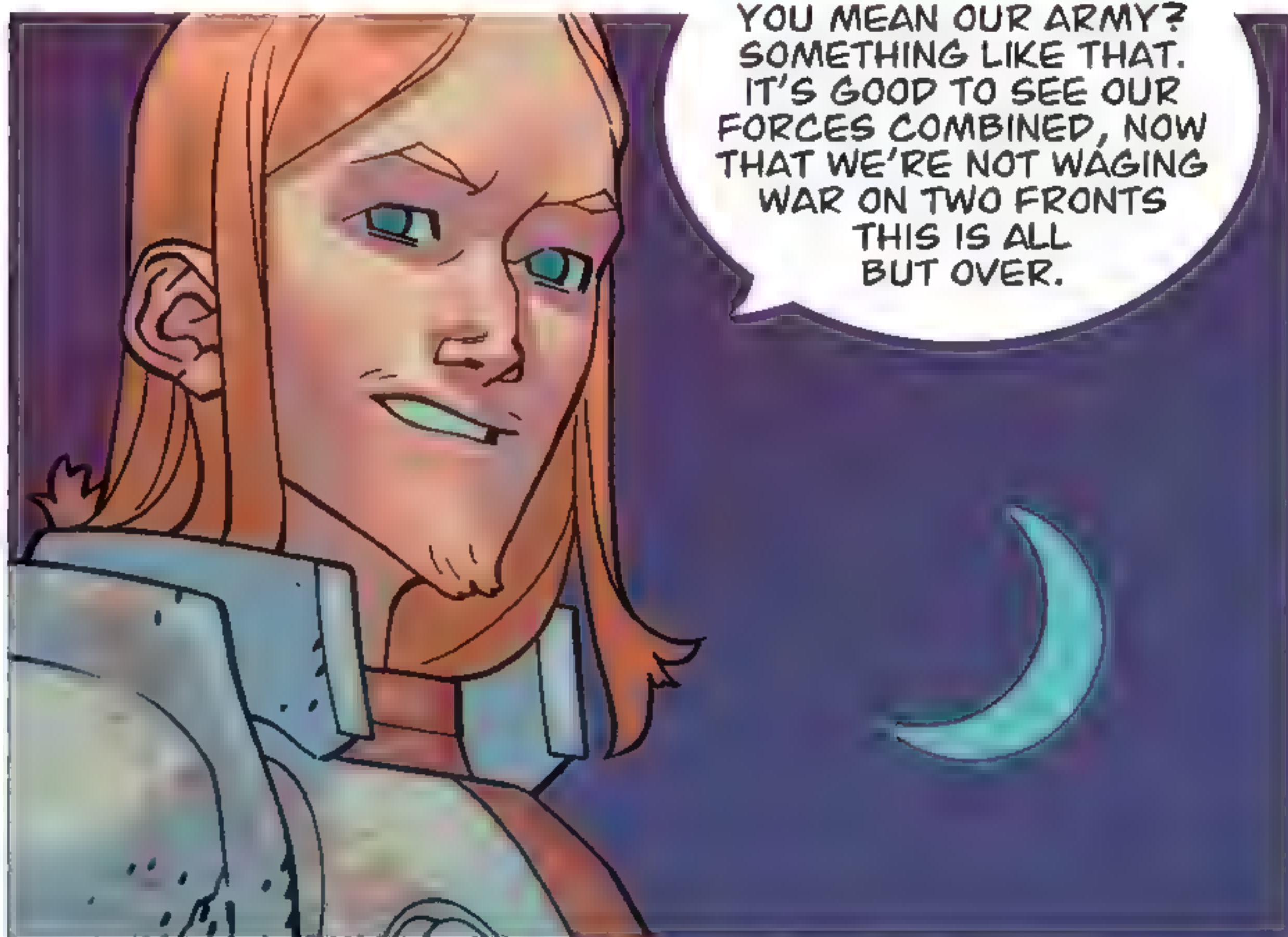






AMANDA?

THESKA TOLD  
ME YOU WERE UP  
HERE. COUNTING  
HEADS? MAKING  
SURE YOUR  
ARMY IS BIG  
ENOUGH?

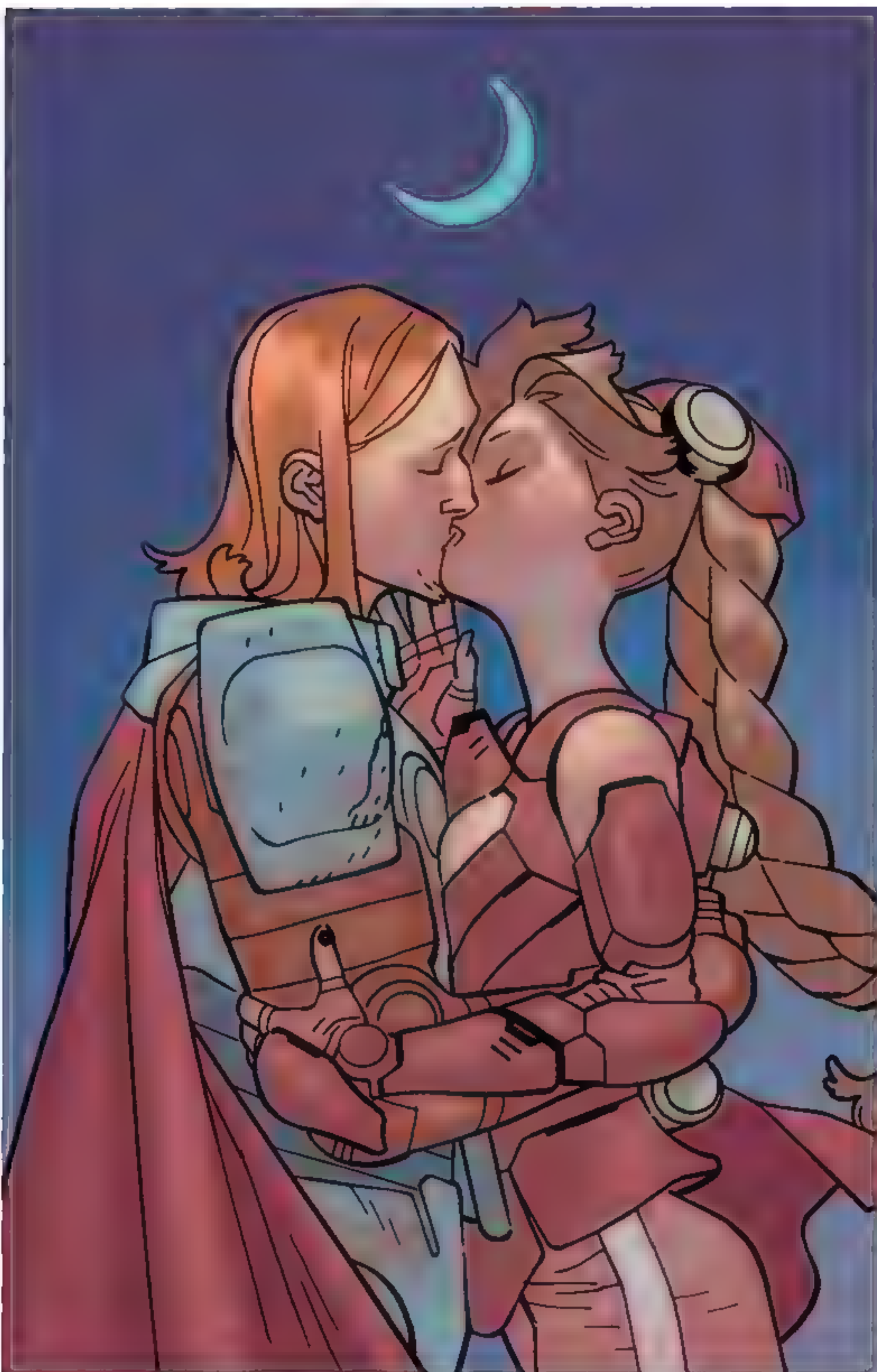


YOU MEAN OUR ARMY?  
SOMETHING LIKE THAT.  
IT'S GOOD TO SEE OUR  
FORCES COMBINED, NOW  
THAT WE'RE NOT WAGING  
WAR ON TWO FRONTS  
THIS IS ALL  
BUT OVER.



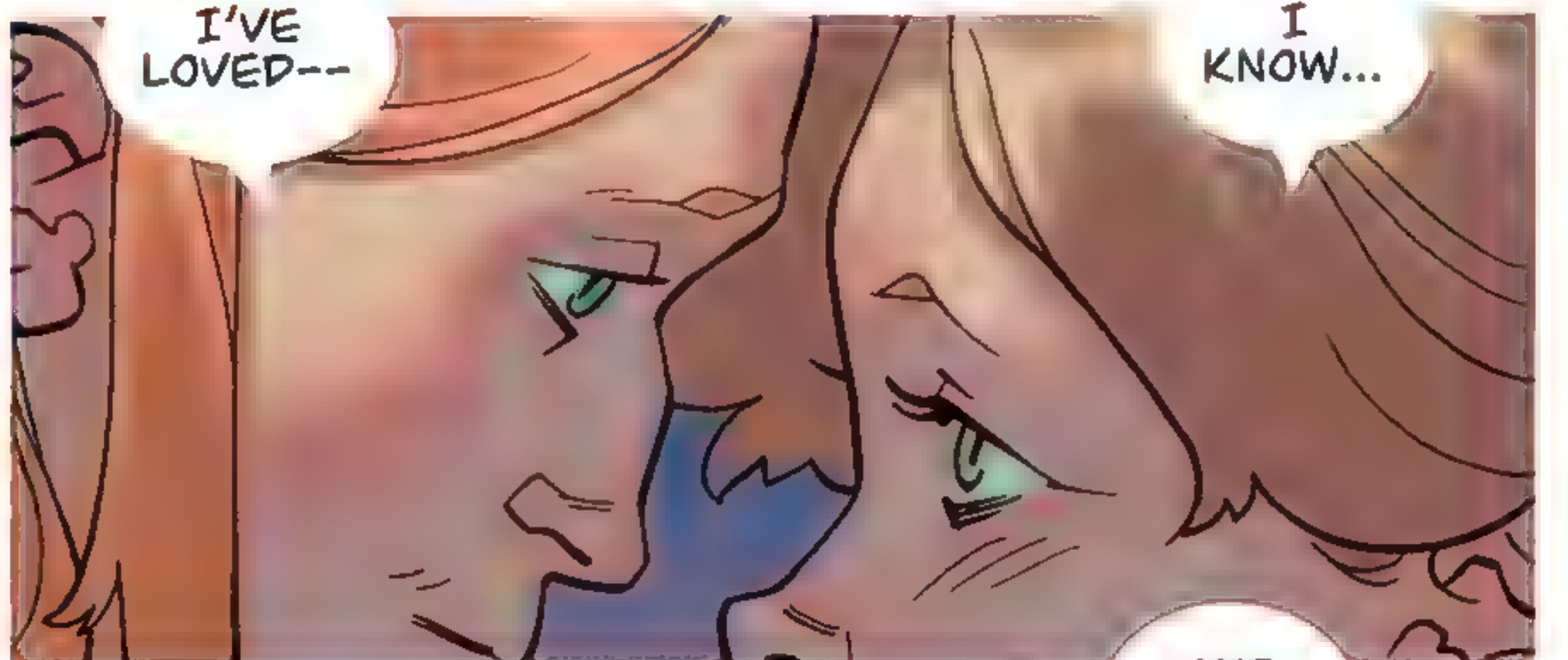
REX,  
I...

I  
REALLY  
MISSED  
YOU.

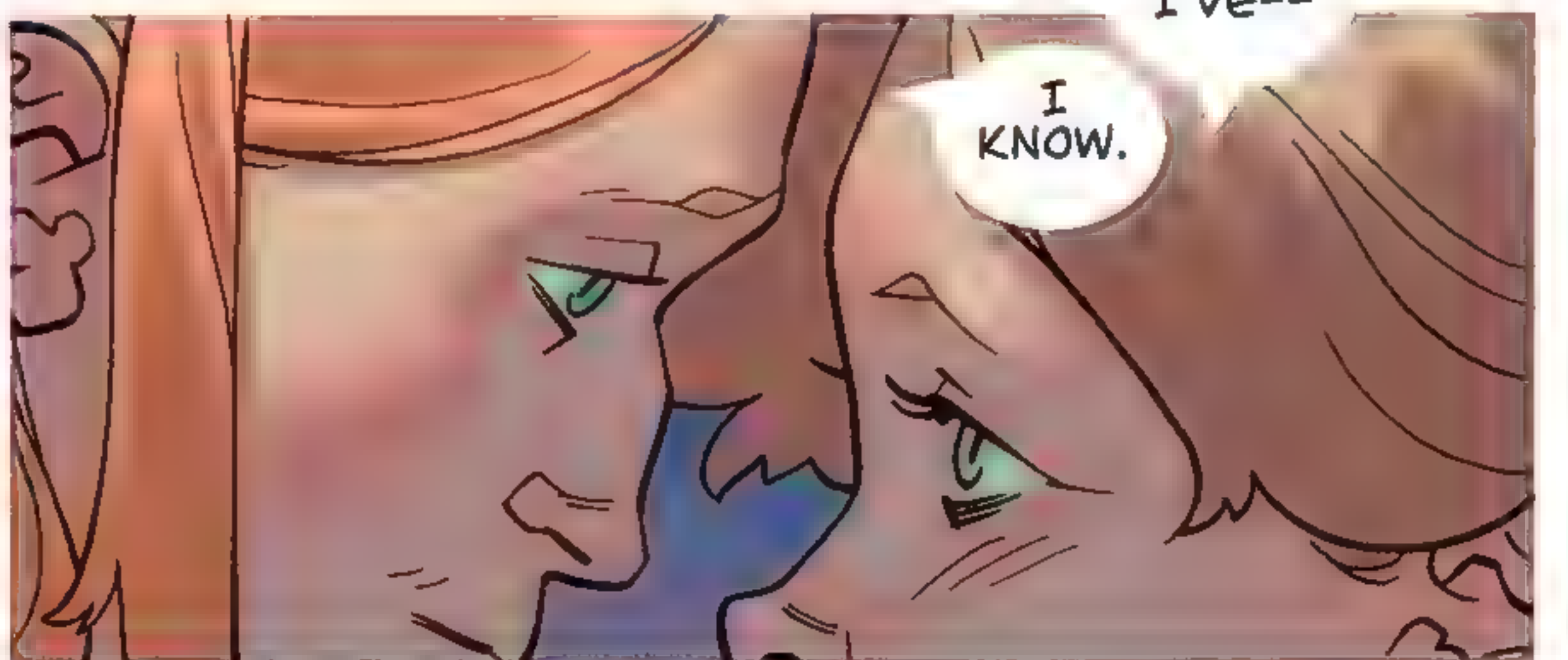


I'VE  
LOVED---

I  
KNOW...

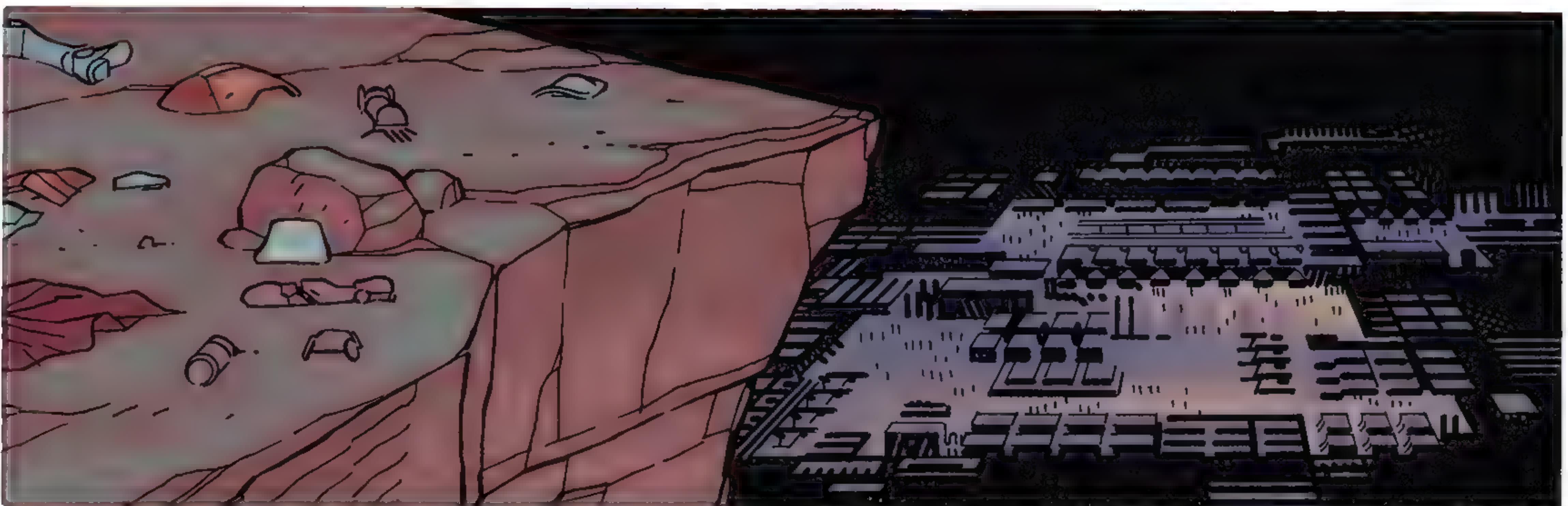
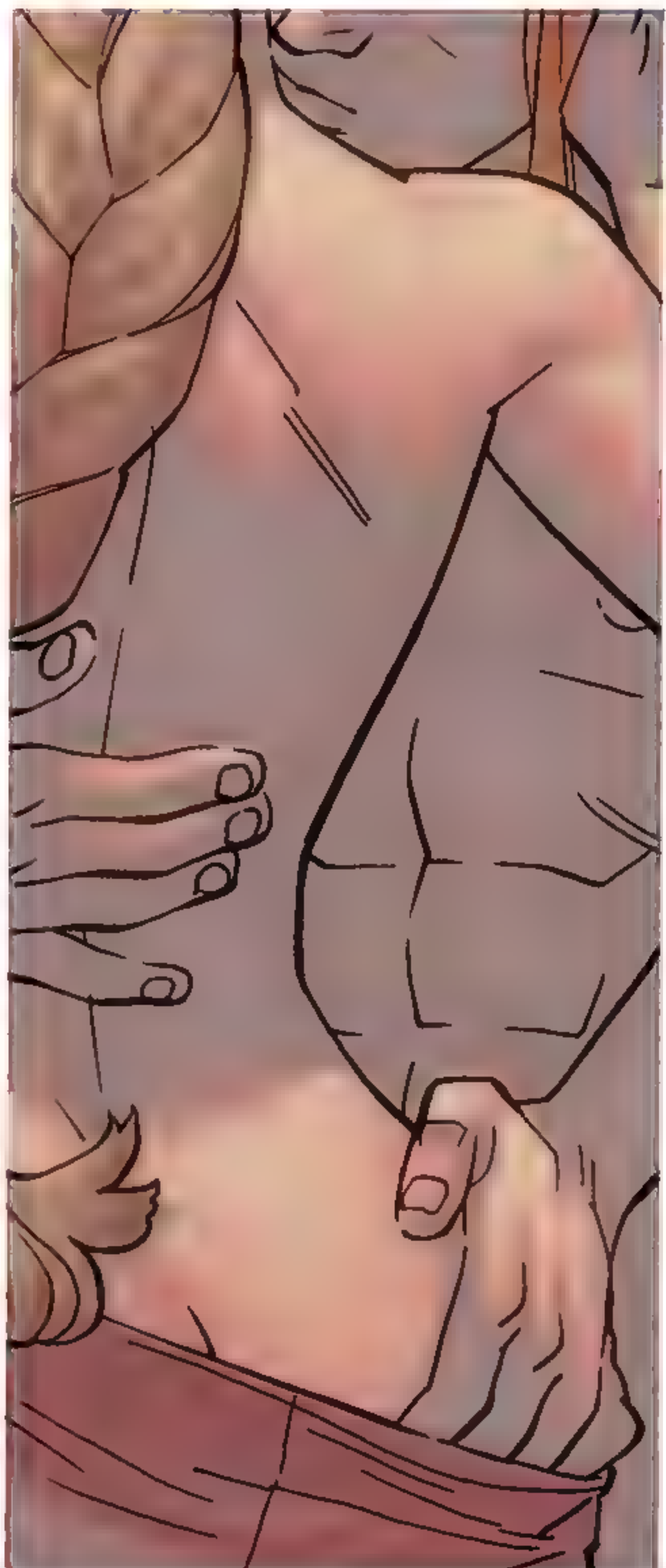
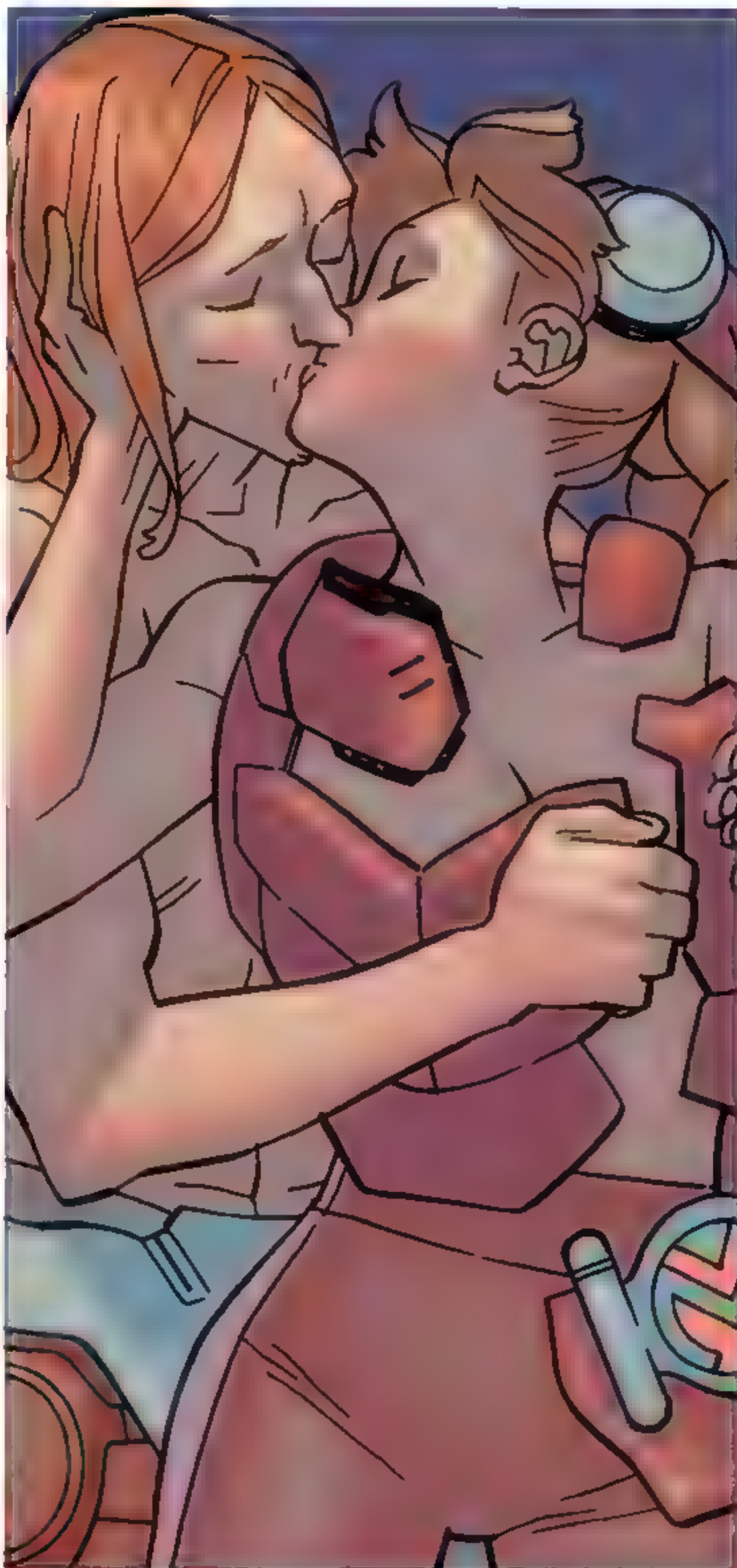
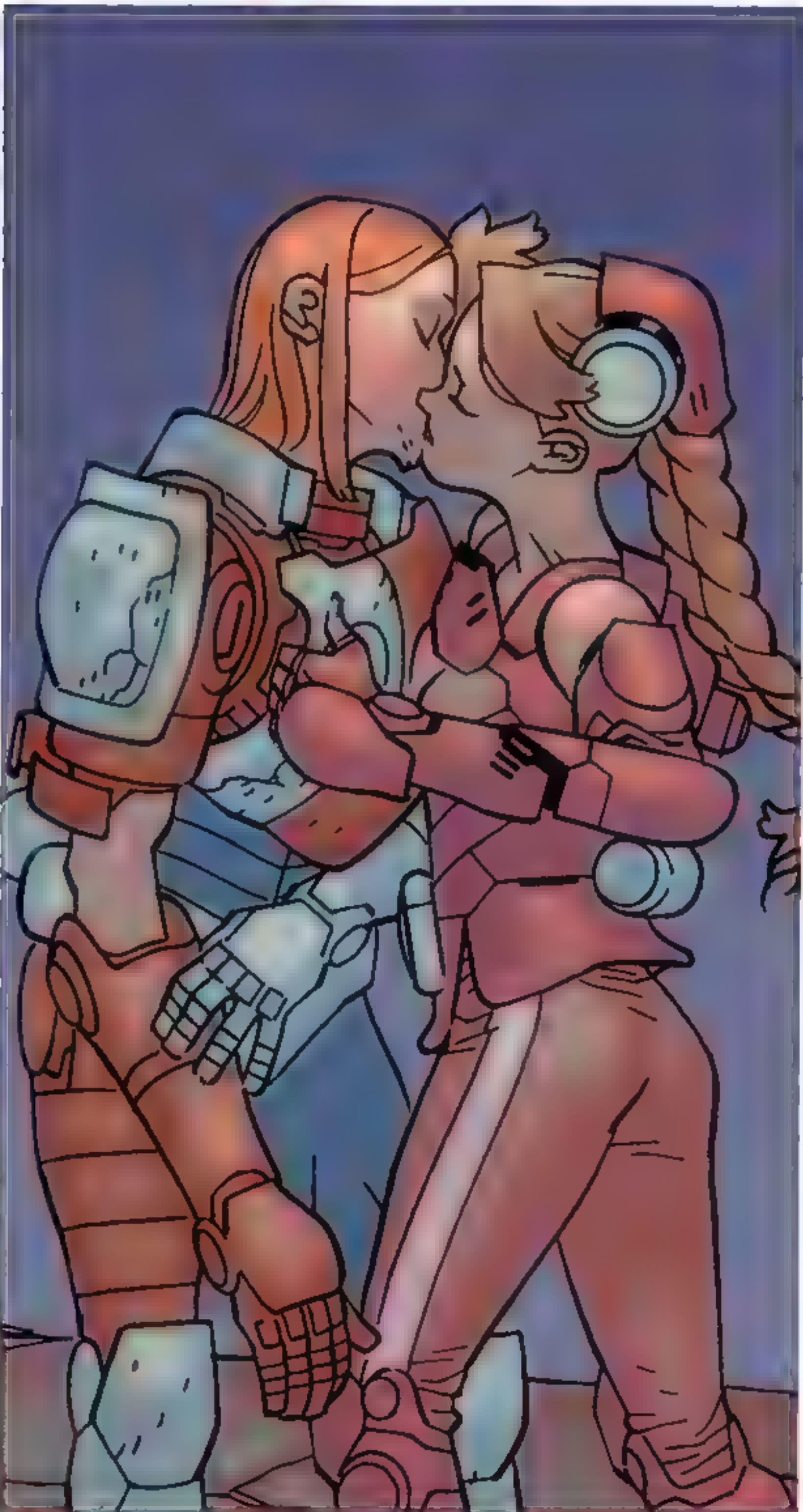


AND  
I'VE---

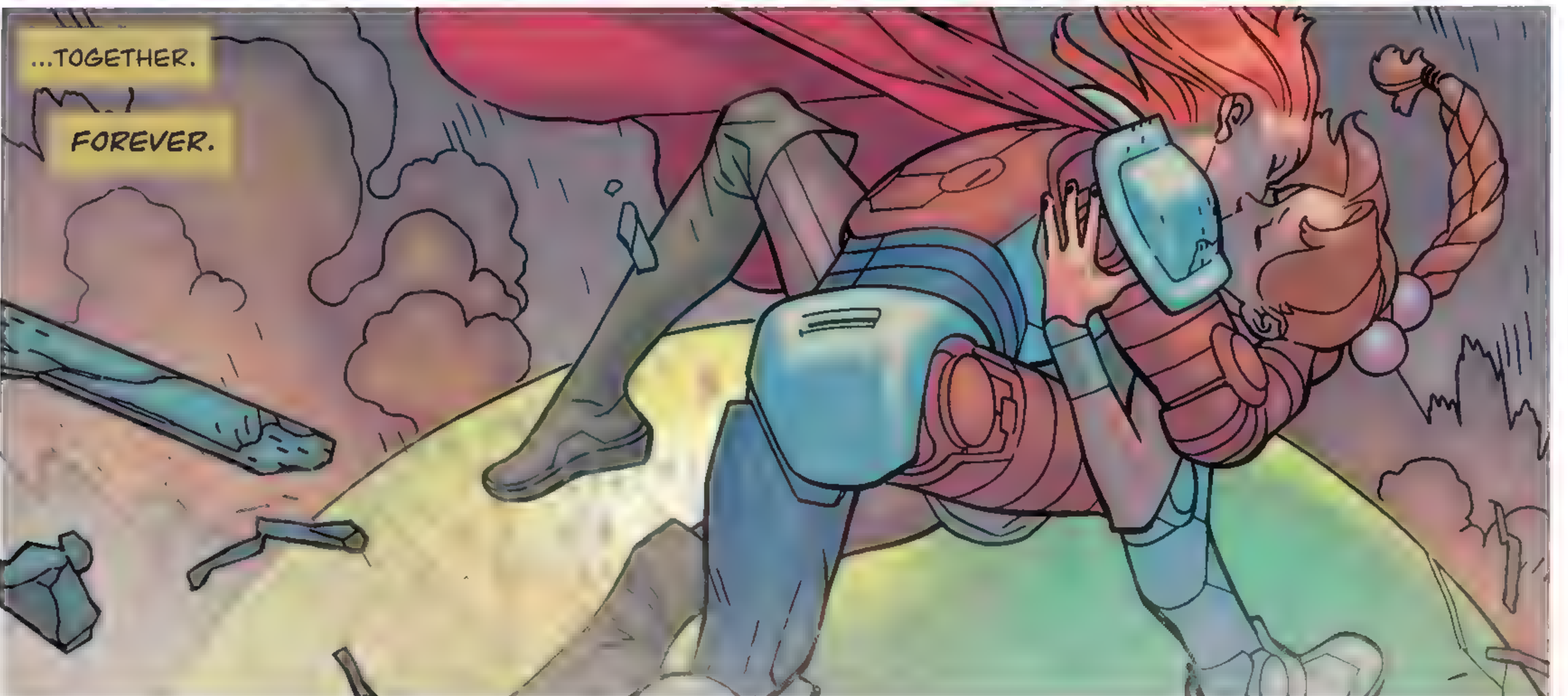
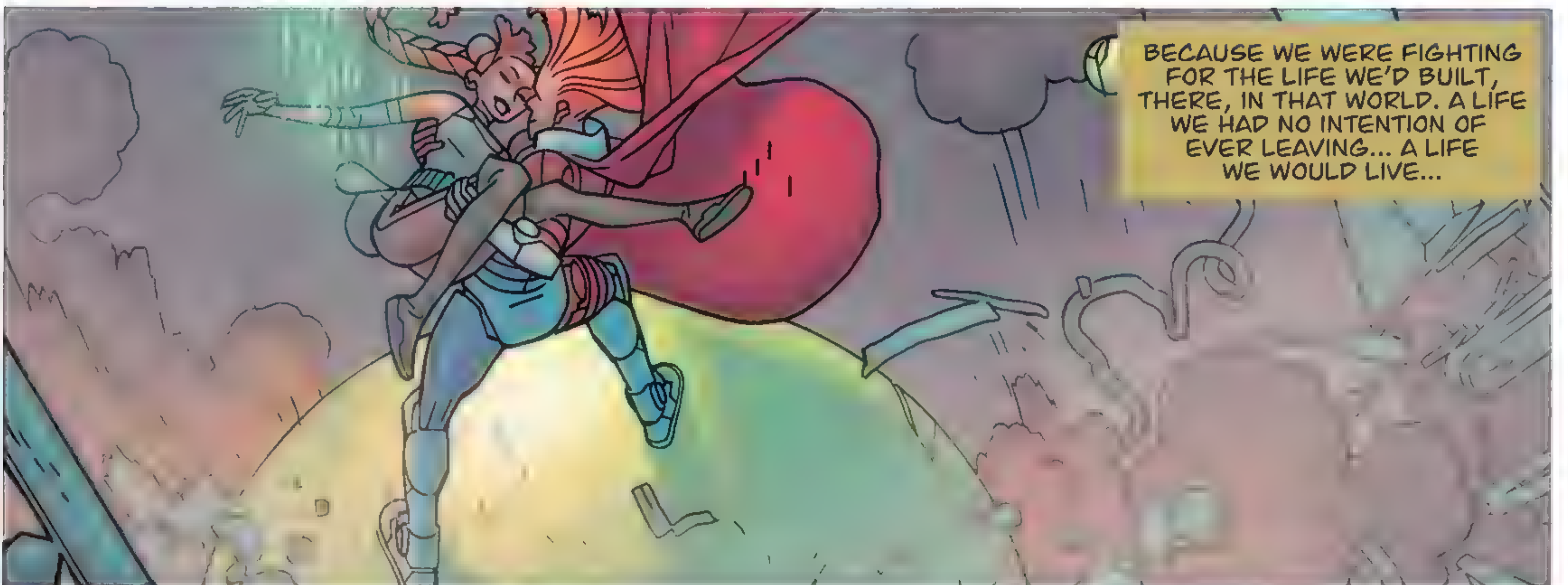
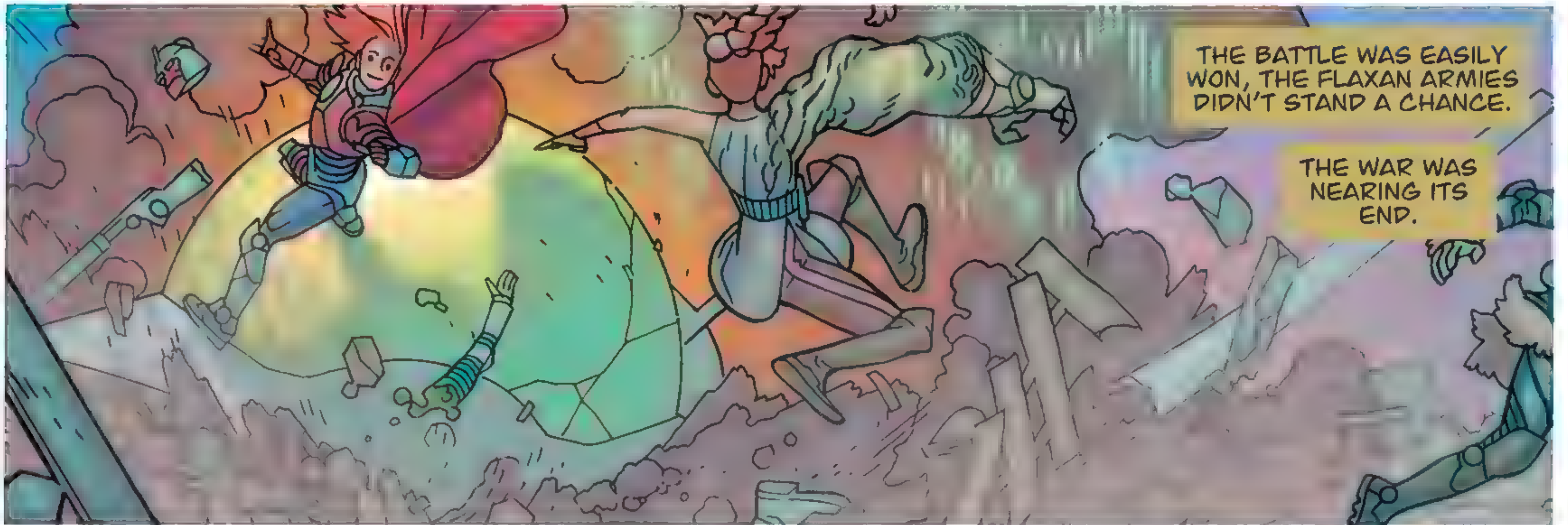


I  
KNOW.







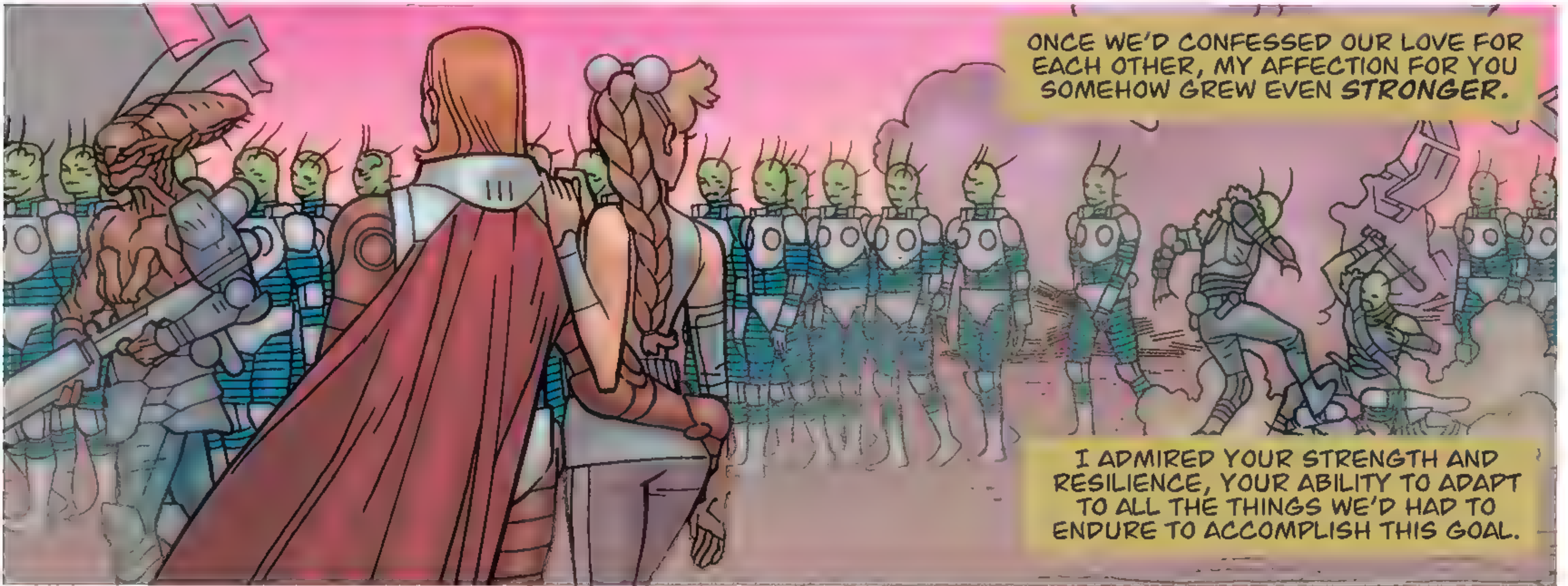






THE WAR WAS OVER.

ALL THE SLAVE RACES WERE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO THEIR HOME DIMENSIONS. MOST CHOSE NOT TO, AS THEY'D BEEN HERE FOR GENERATIONS.



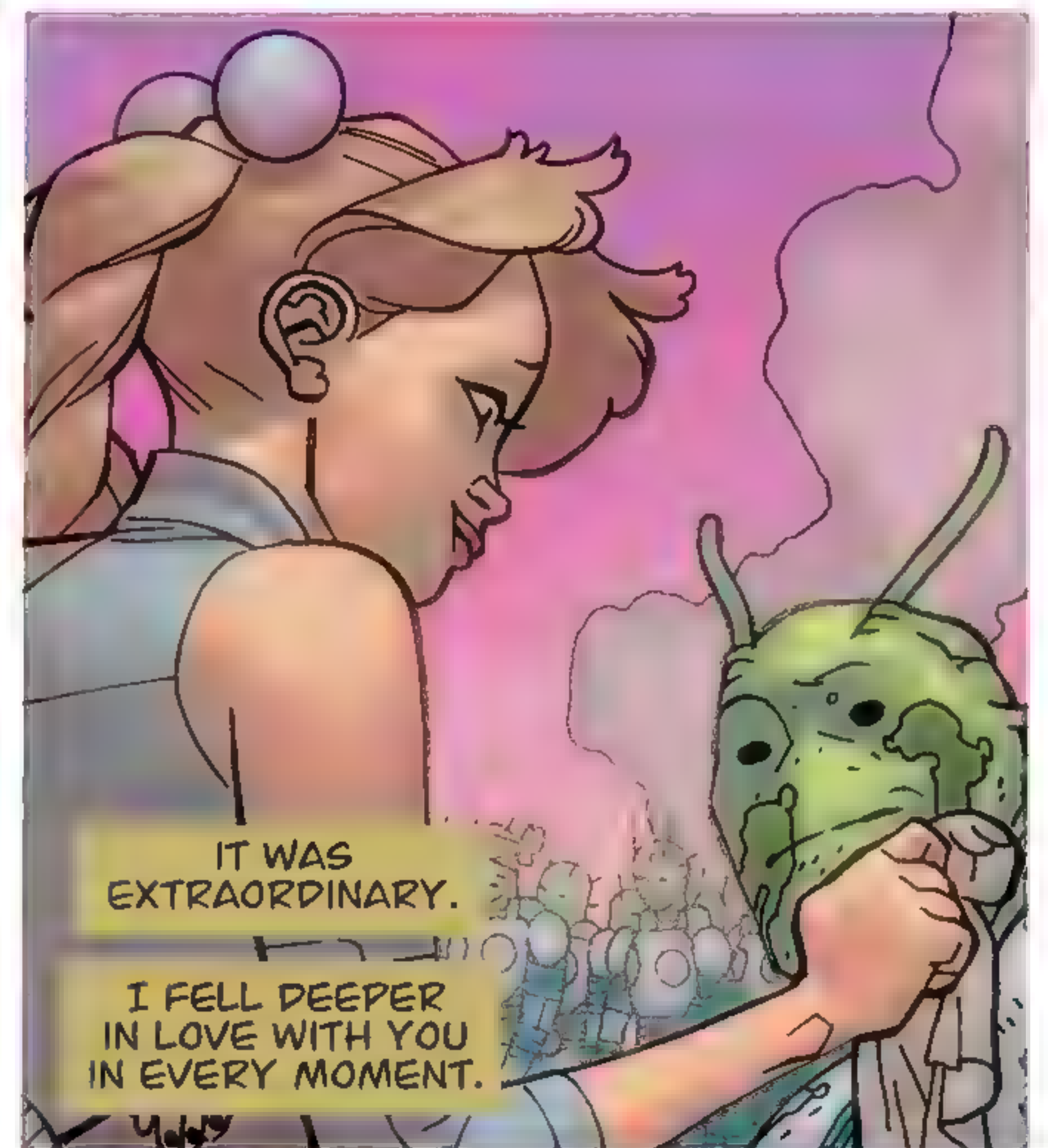
ONCE WE'D CONFESSED OUR LOVE FOR EACH OTHER, MY AFFECTION FOR YOU SOMEHOW GREW EVEN STRONGER.

I ADMIRERD YOUR STRENGTH AND RESILIENCE, YOUR ABILITY TO ADAPT TO ALL THE THINGS WE'D HAD TO ENDURE TO ACCOMPLISH THIS GOAL.



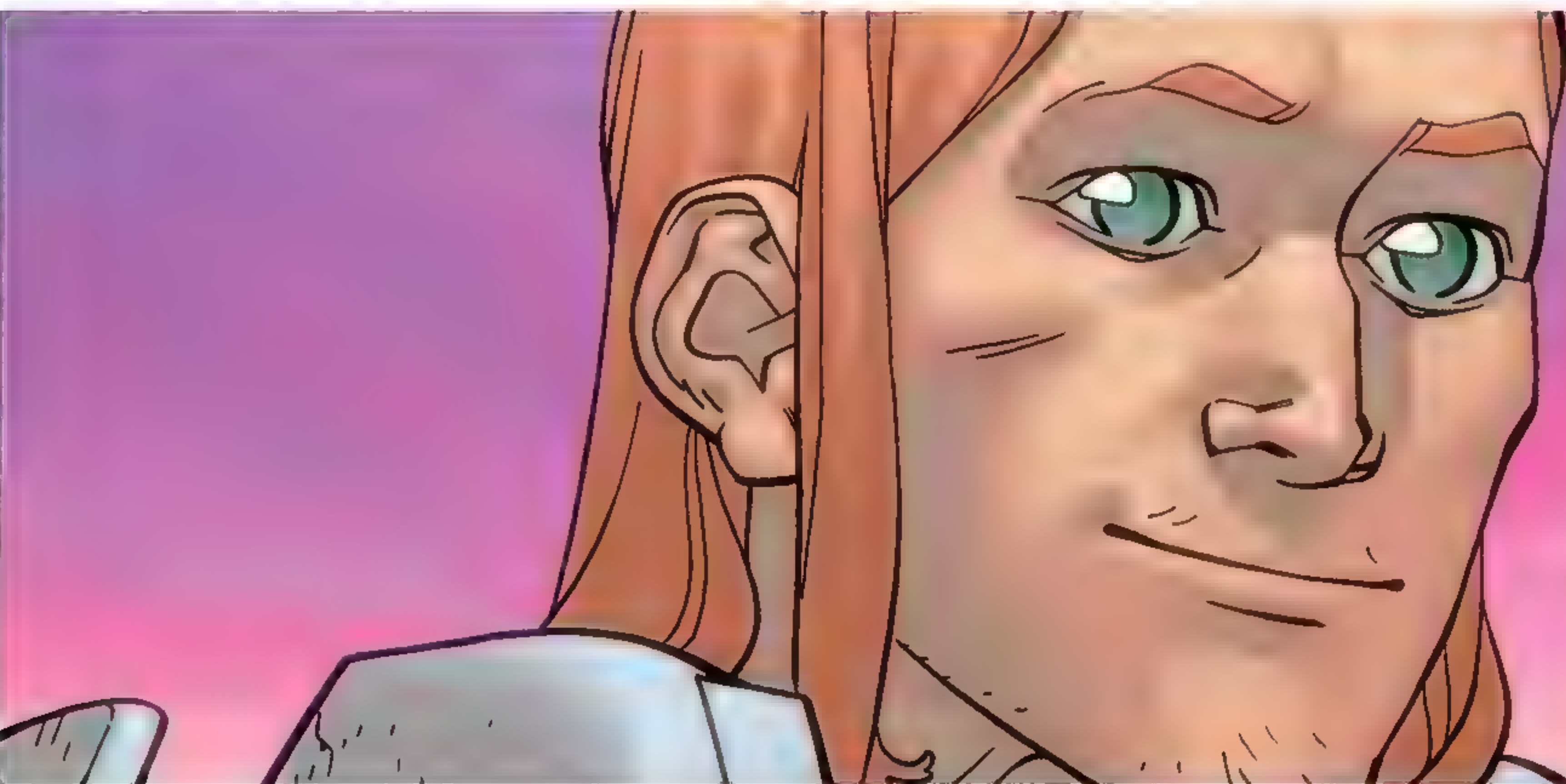
YOUR COMPASSION MOVED ME.

YOU CARED FOR ALL PEOPLE, EVEN OUR ENEMIES.



IT WAS EXTRAORDINARY.

I FELL DEEPER IN LOVE WITH YOU IN EVERY MOMENT.

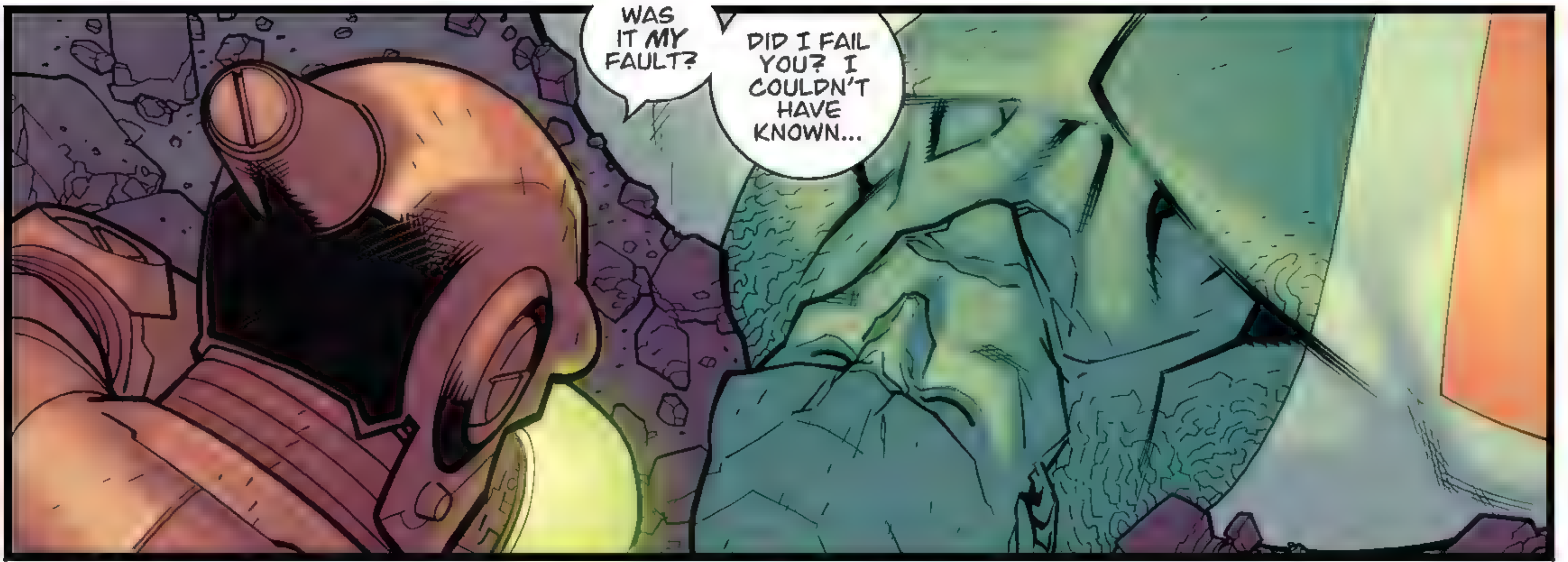


YOU CARED FOR EVERYONE AND I THOUGHT THAT WAS WONDERFUL.

SEEING YOUR AFFECTION FOR THE FLAXANS...

I HAD NO IDEA HOW CONCERNED I SHOULD HAVE BEEN.





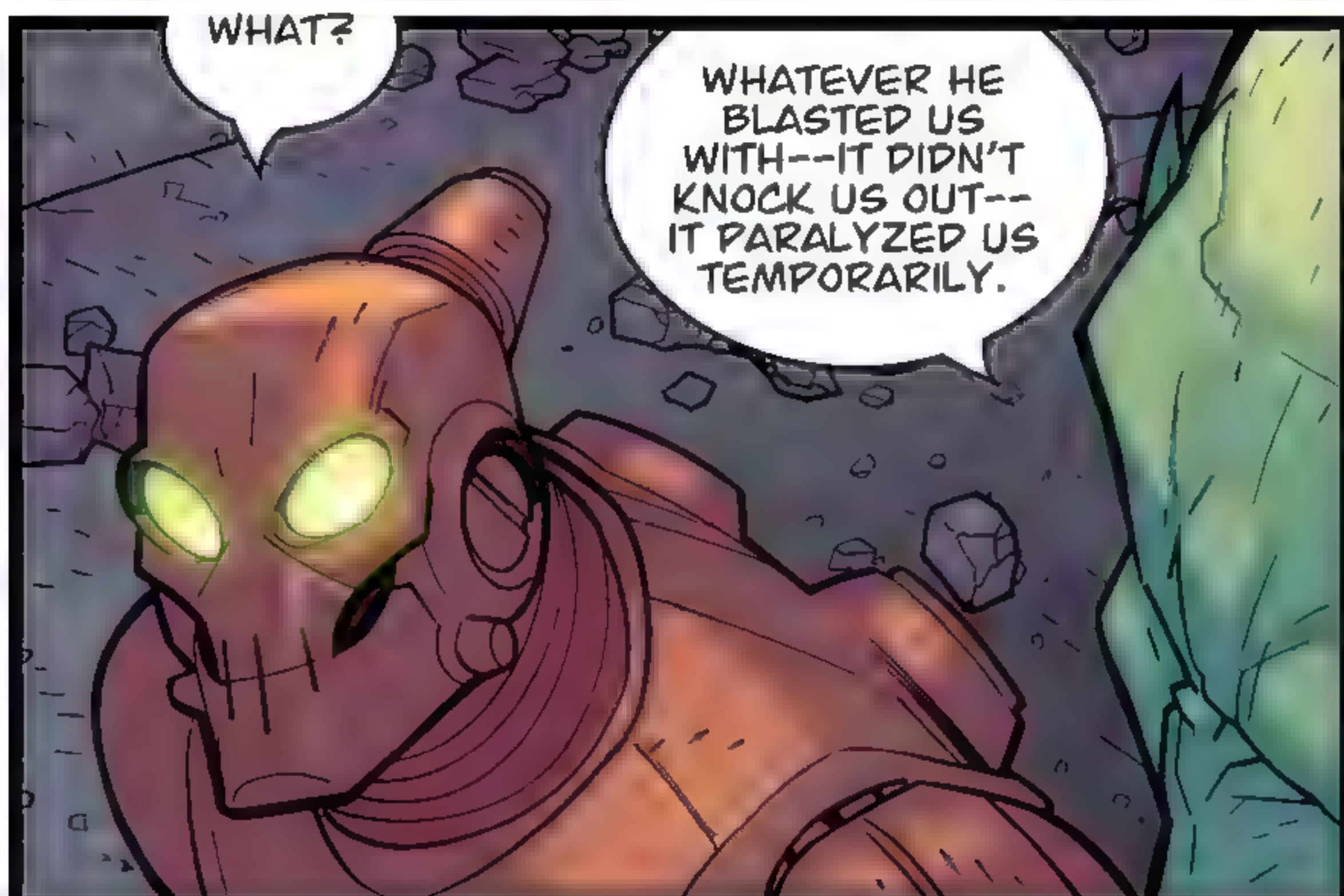




GOOD TIMING.  
I'M STRETCHED  
A LITTLE THIN.  
LOTS OF  
DRONES IN  
ACTION.

MUST  
HAVE GOTTEN  
DISTRACTED.

I WASN'T  
UNCONSCIOUS.



WHAT?

WHATEVER HE  
BLASTED US  
WITH--IT DIDN'T  
KNOCK US OUT--  
IT PARALYZED US  
TEMPORARILY.



I HEARD  
EVERYTHING  
YOU SAID.



AT LONG LAST  
I AM FACE TO  
FACE WITH  
YOU--!

LOOK UPON  
ME, REX ROBOT  
AND AMANDA  
MONSTER GIRL.  
I AM LIVING PROOF  
THAT YOUR WORK  
TO DESTROY MY  
PEOPLE HAS  
FAILED.

THAT'S  
RIGHT... I  
SPEAK YOUR  
LANGUAGE,  
TOO.







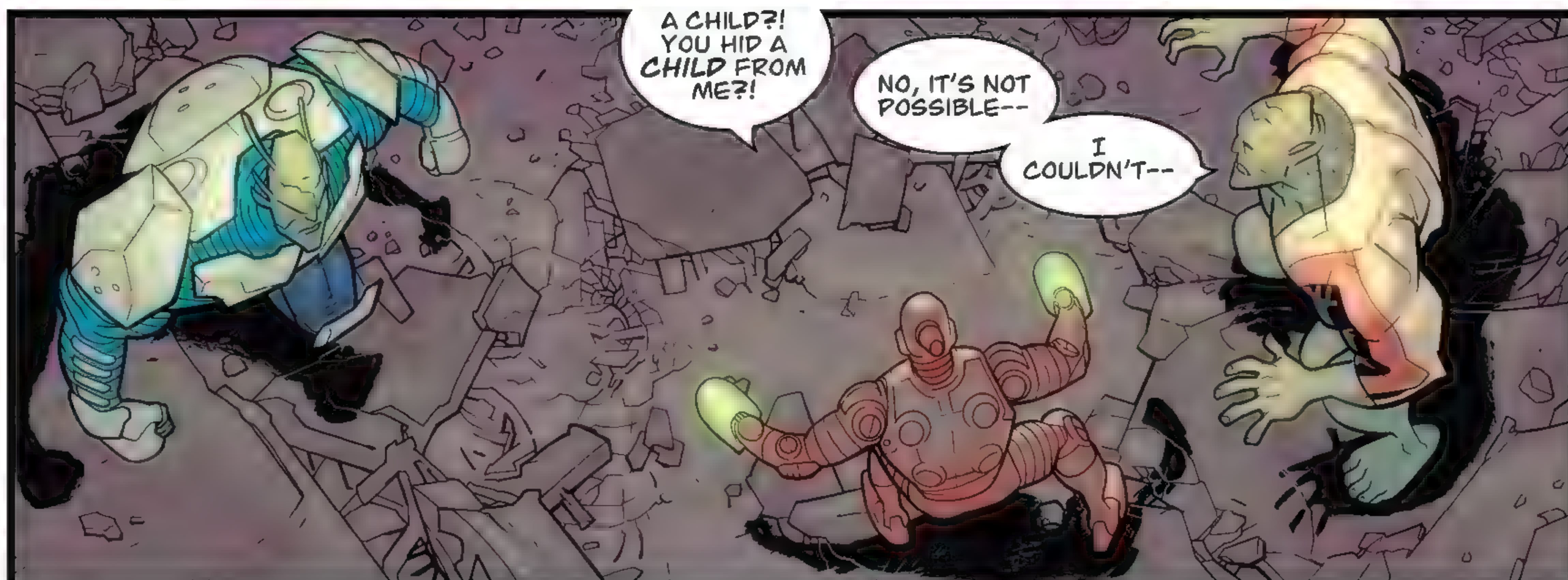
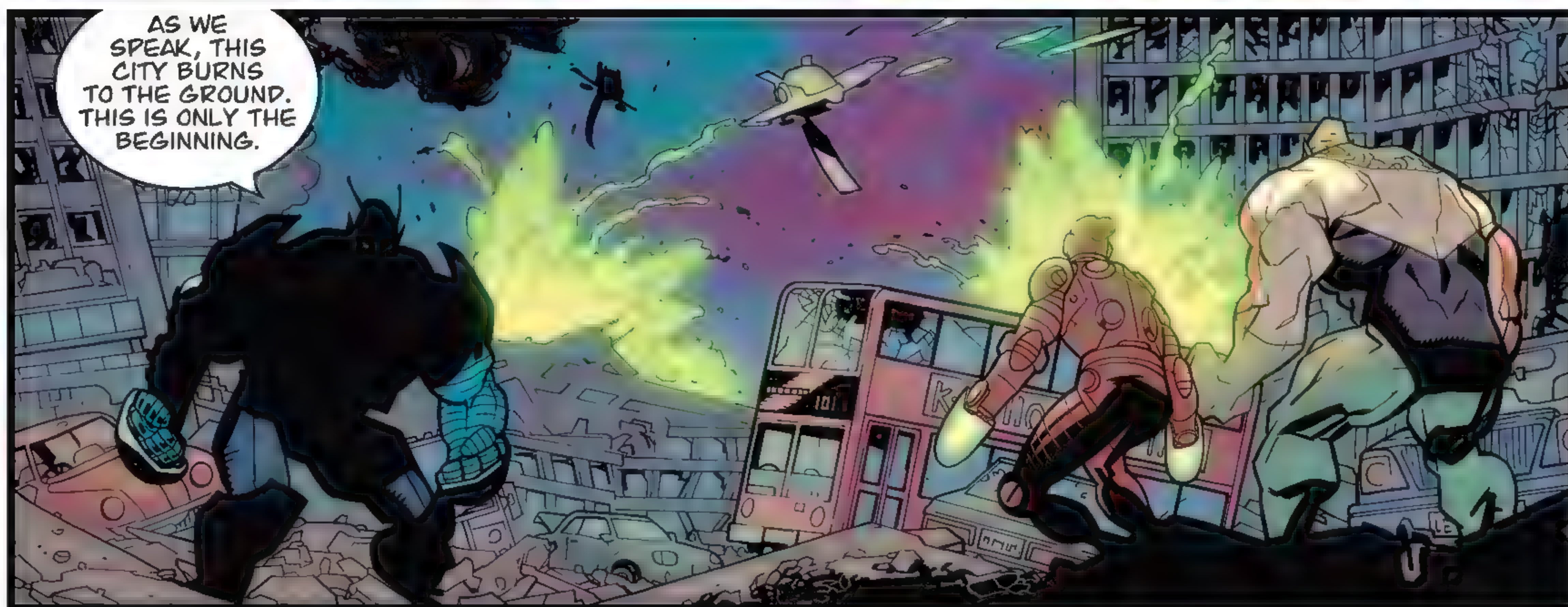




# CHAPTER FIVE





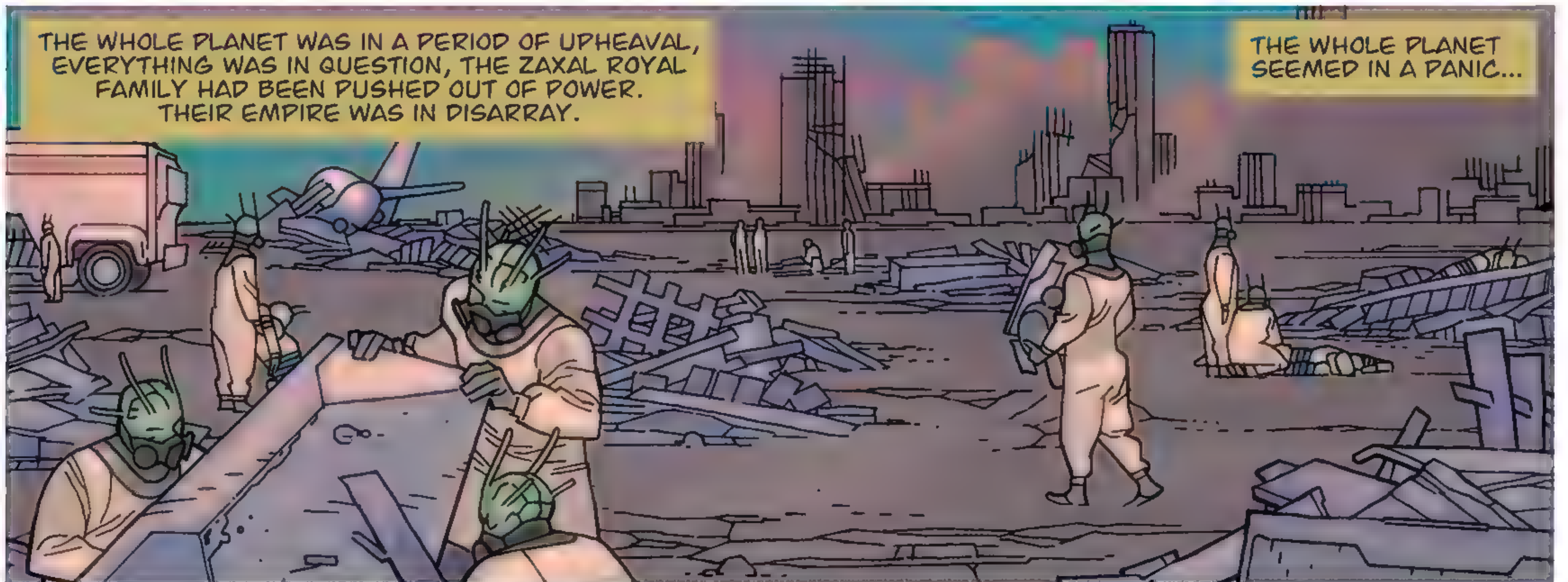






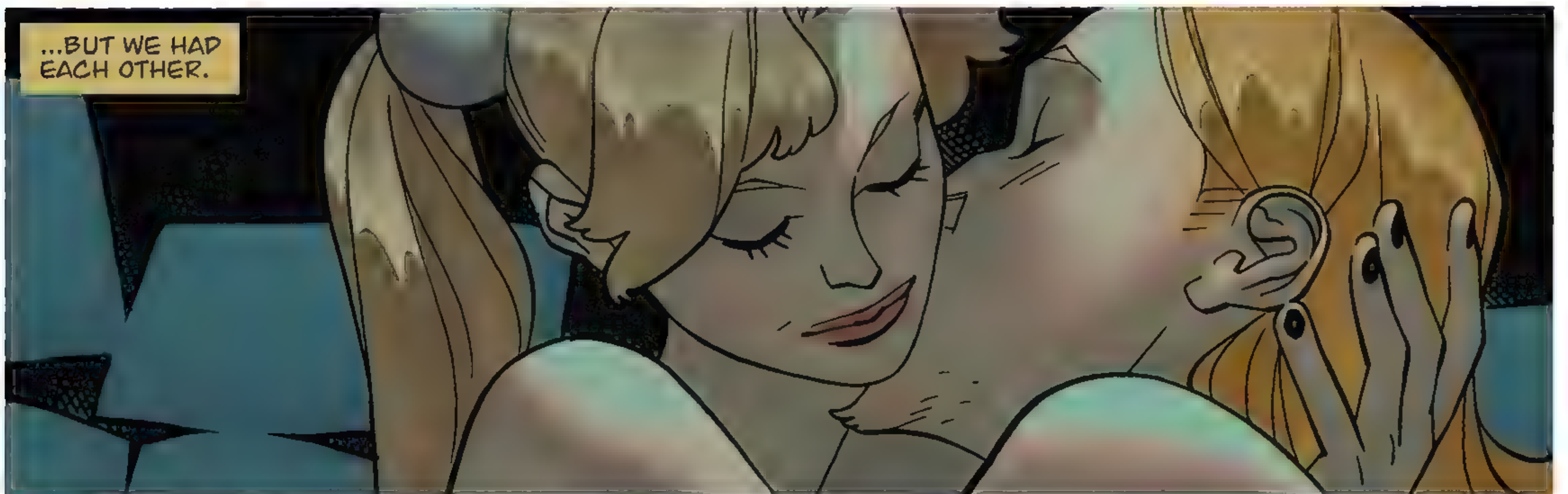
DEAREST AMANDA, I  
REMEMBER THE DAYS  
FOLLOWING THE END  
OF THE GREAT WAR OF  
INDEPENDENCE...

...HOW HAPPY  
WE WERE.

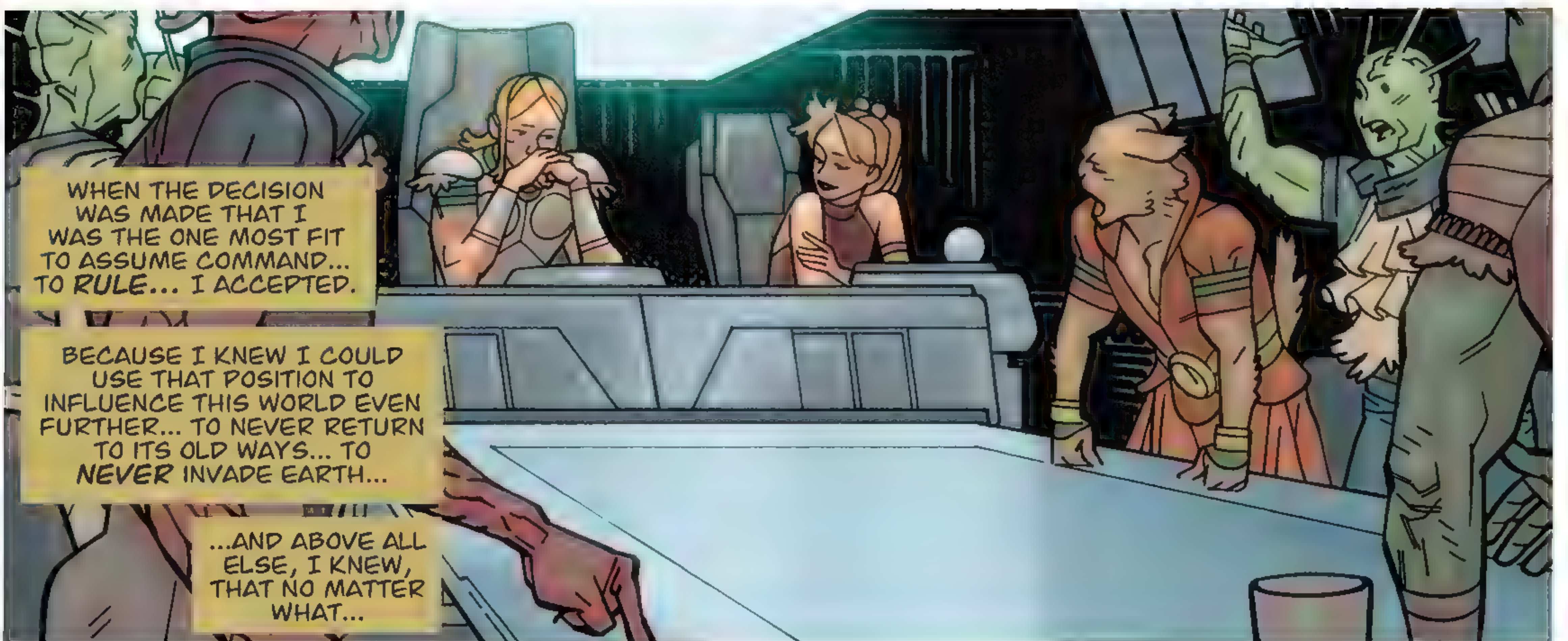


THE WHOLE PLANET WAS IN A PERIOD OF UPHEAVAL,  
EVERYTHING WAS IN QUESTION, THE ZAXAL ROYAL  
FAMILY HAD BEEN PUSHED OUT OF POWER.  
THEIR EMPIRE WAS IN DISARRAY.

THE WHOLE PLANET  
SEEMED IN A PANIC...



...BUT WE HAD  
EACH OTHER.

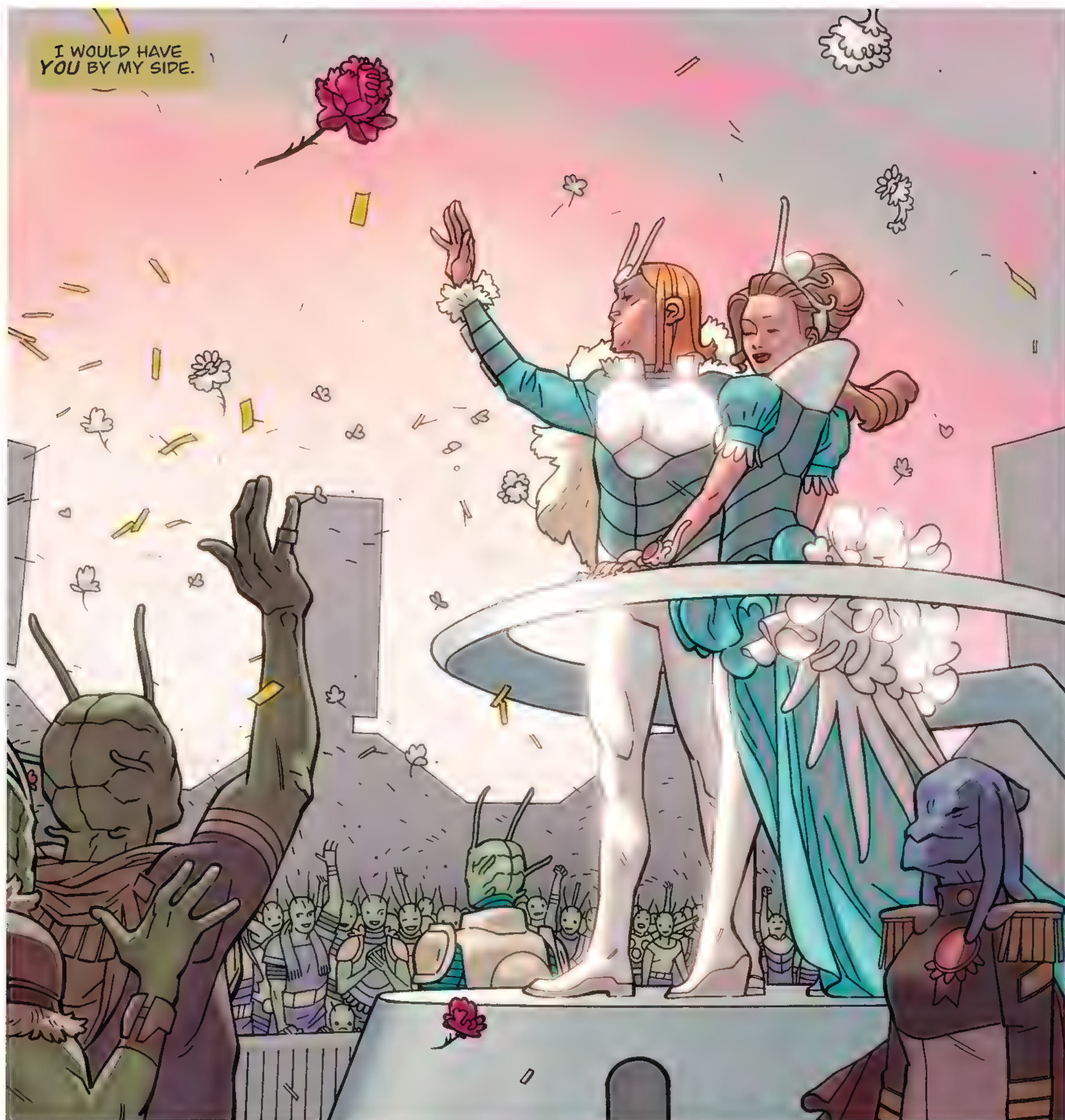


WHEN THE DECISION  
WAS MADE THAT I  
WAS THE ONE MOST FIT  
TO ASSUME COMMAND...  
TO RULE... I ACCEPTED.

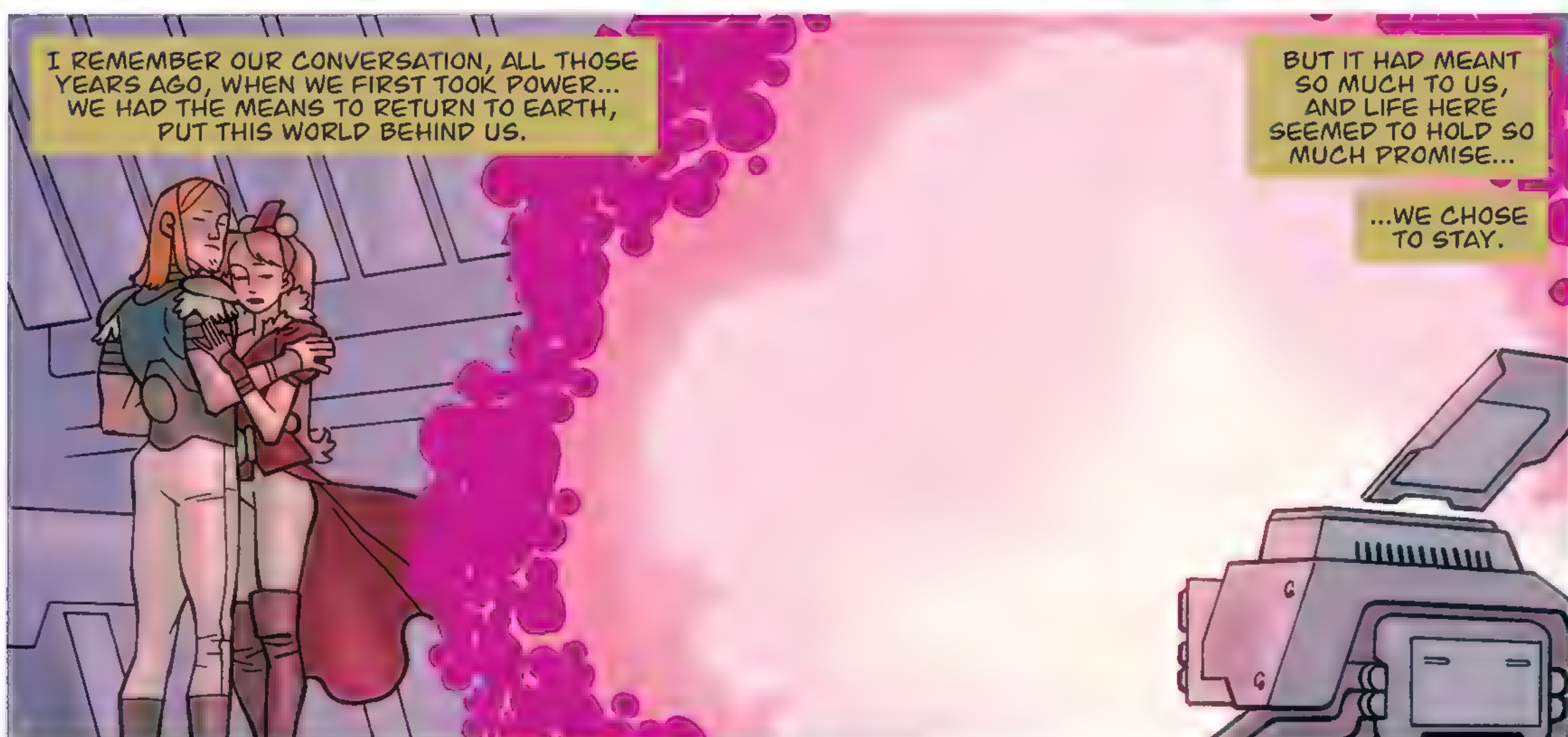
BECAUSE I KNEW I COULD  
USE THAT POSITION TO  
INFLUENCE THIS WORLD EVEN  
FURTHER... TO NEVER RETURN  
TO ITS OLD WAYS... TO  
NEVER INVADE EARTH...

...AND ABOVE ALL  
ELSE, I KNEW,  
THAT NO MATTER  
WHAT...





I WOULD HAVE  
YOU BY MY SIDE.



I REMEMBER OUR CONVERSATION, ALL THOSE  
YEARS AGO, WHEN WE FIRST TOOK POWER...  
WE HAD THE MEANS TO RETURN TO EARTH,  
PUT THIS WORLD BEHIND US.

BUT IT HAD MEANT  
SO MUCH TO US,  
AND LIFE HERE  
SEEMED TO HOLD SO  
MUCH PROMISE...

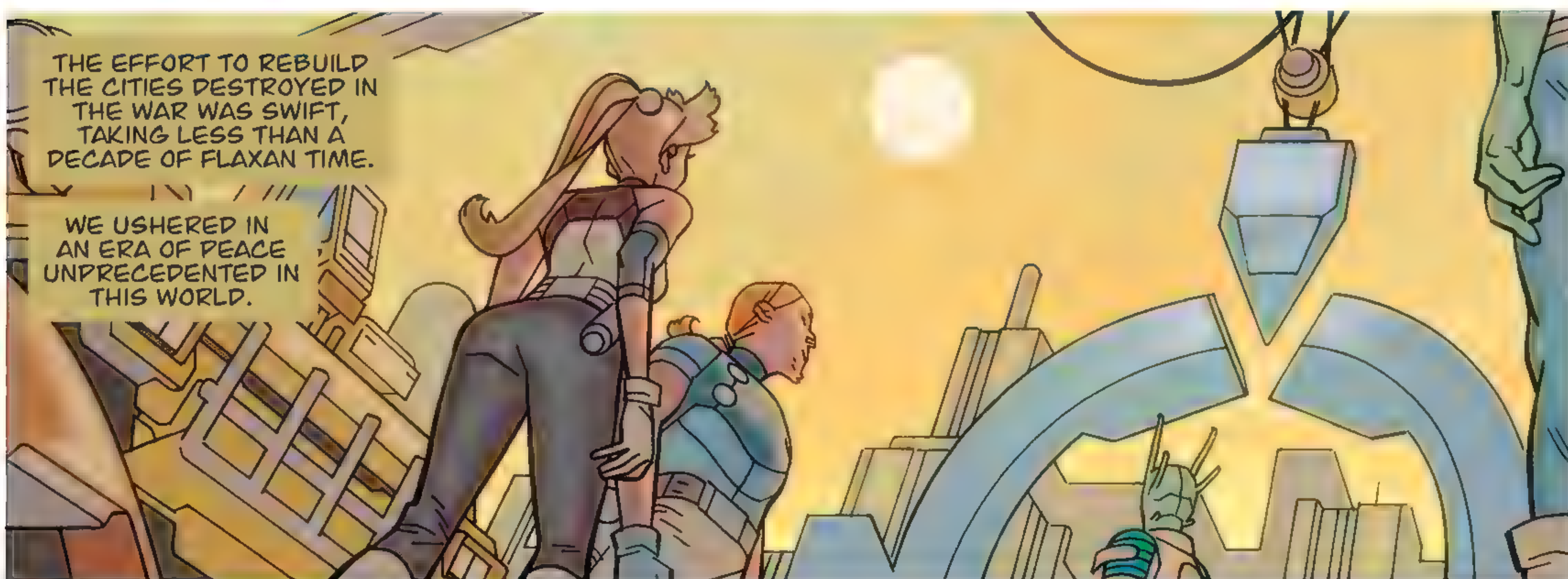
...WE CHOSE  
TO STAY.





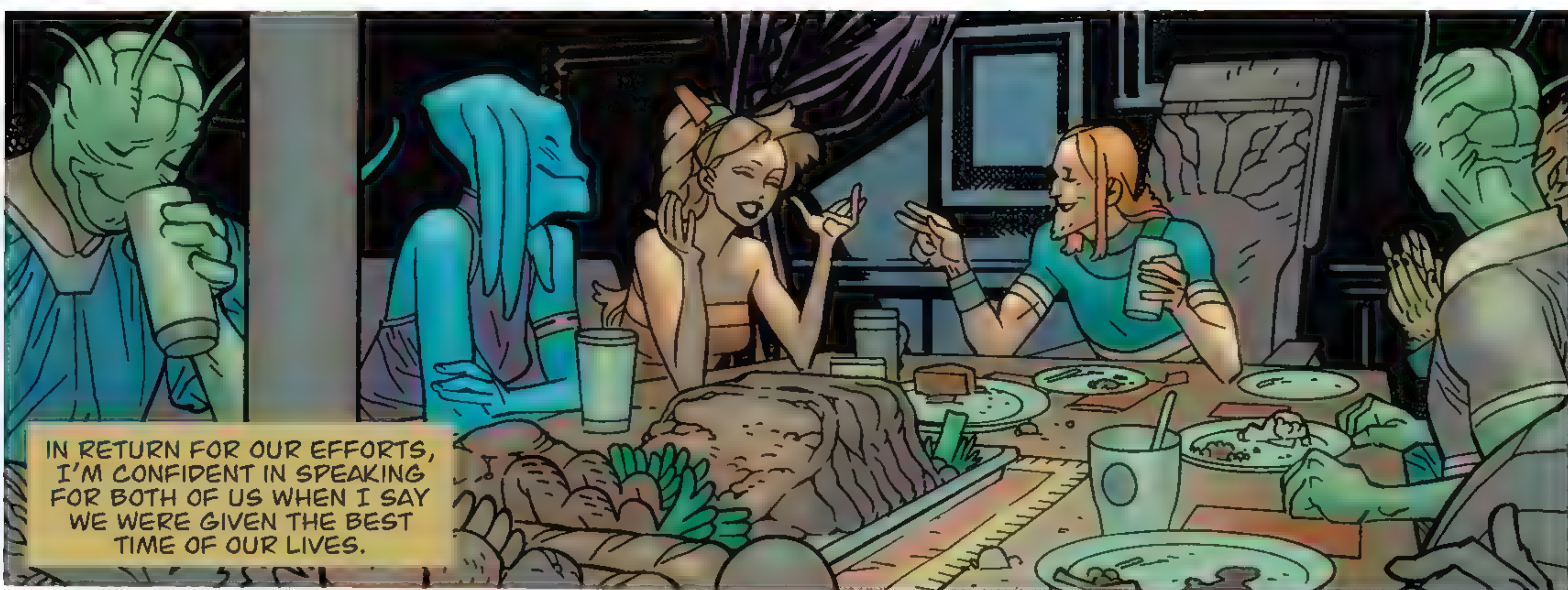
I RECALL HOW QUICKLY ALL  
FLAXAN PEOPLE, EVEN THE  
MILITARY WHO OPPOSED US,  
BEGAN TO RALLY BEHIND US.

THE SUPPORT WAS  
OVERWHELMING.

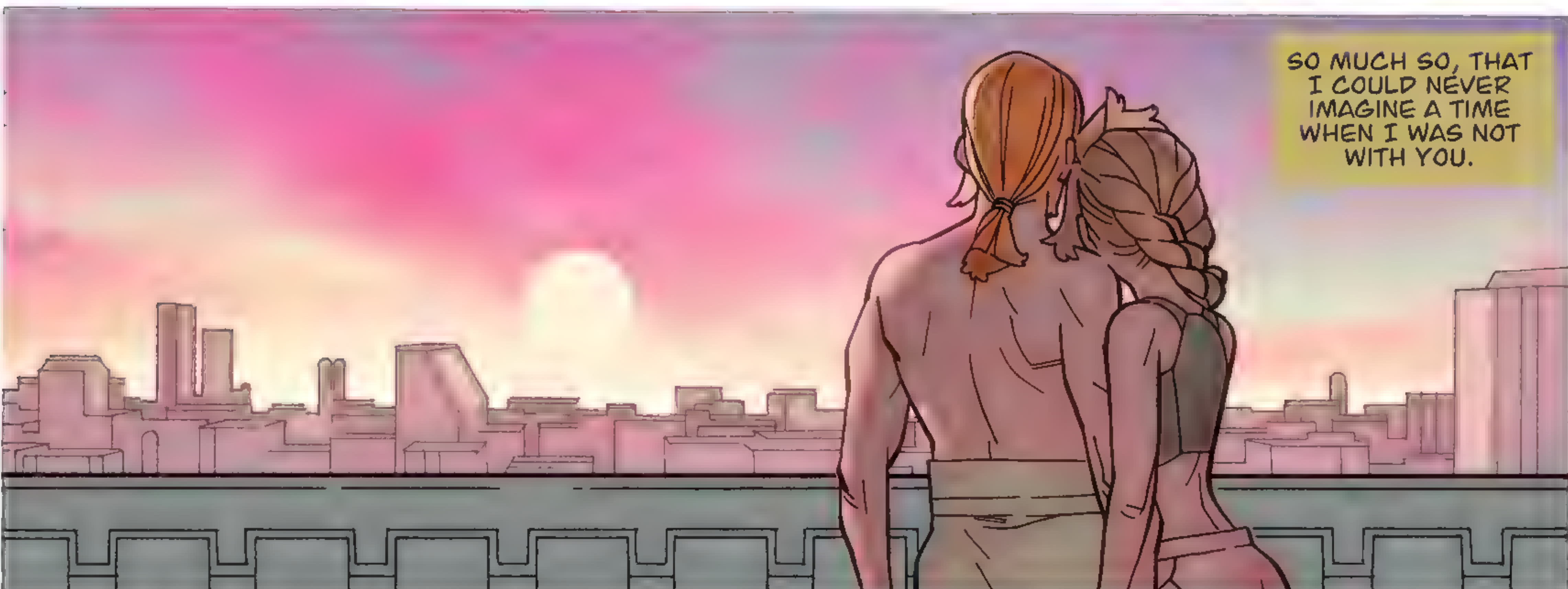


THE EFFORT TO REBUILD  
THE CITIES DESTROYED IN  
THE WAR WAS SWIFT,  
TAKING LESS THAN A  
DECADE OF FLAXAN TIME.

WE USHERED IN  
AN ERA OF PEACE  
UNPRECEDENTED IN  
THIS WORLD.

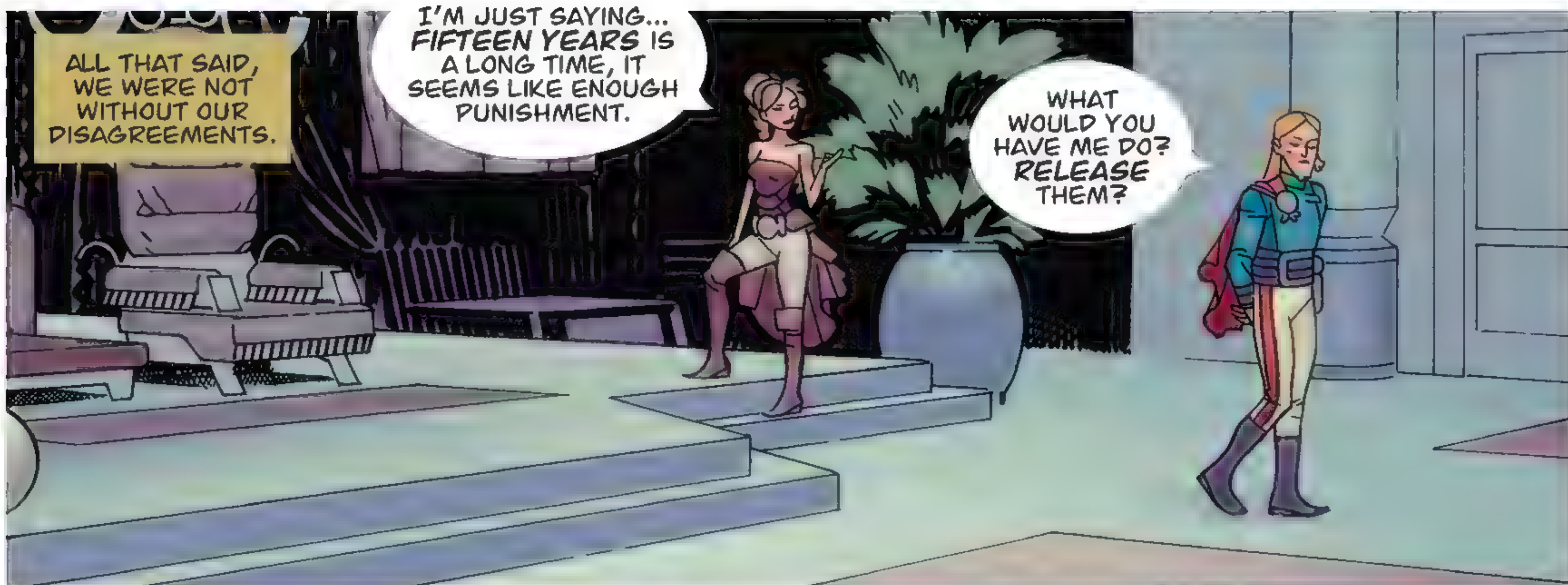


IN RETURN FOR OUR EFFORTS,  
I'M CONFIDENT IN SPEAKING  
FOR BOTH OF US WHEN I SAY  
WE WERE GIVEN THE BEST  
TIME OF OUR LIVES.



SO MUCH SO, THAT  
I COULD NEVER  
IMAGINE A TIME  
WHEN I WAS NOT  
WITH YOU.

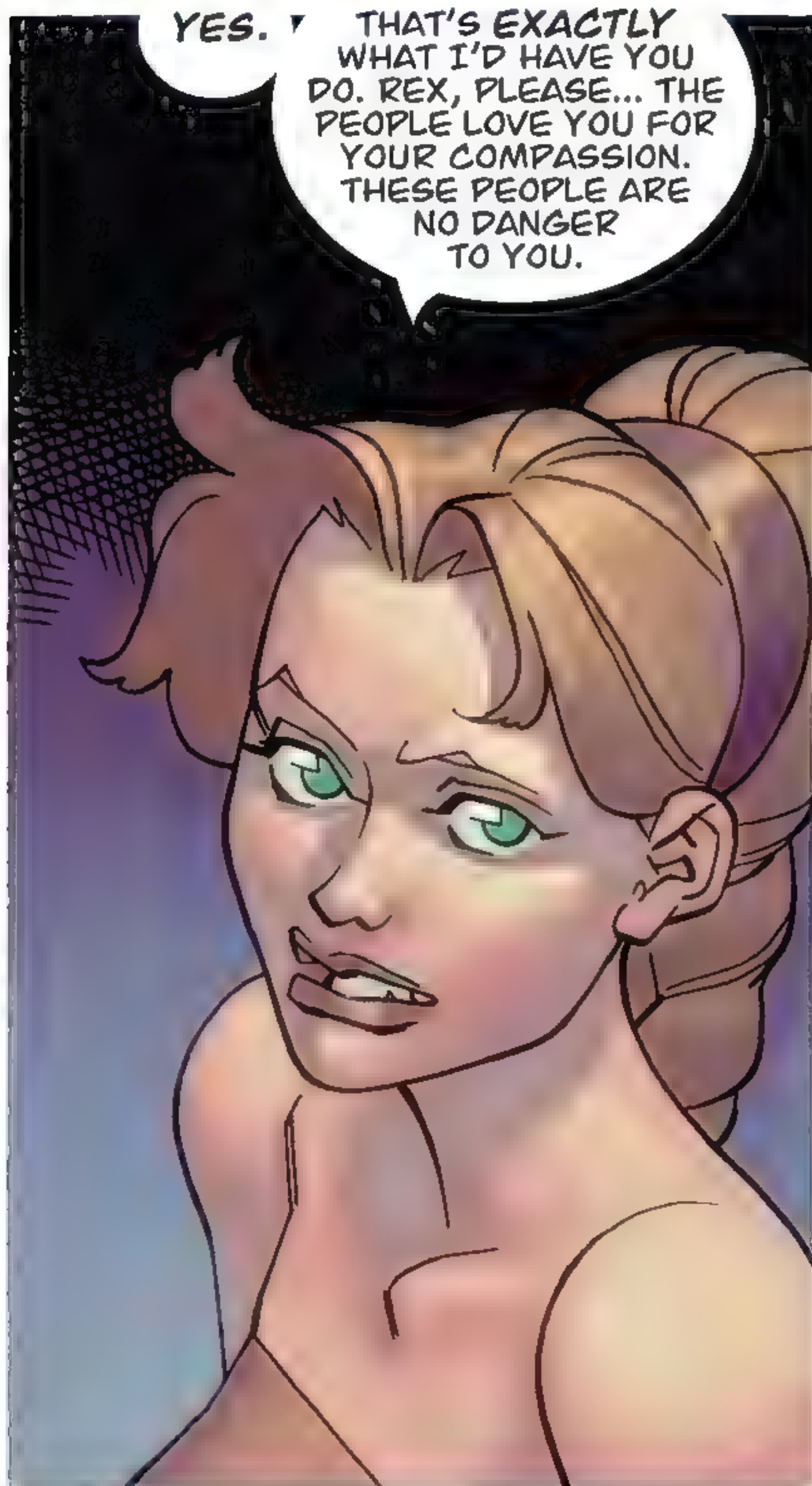




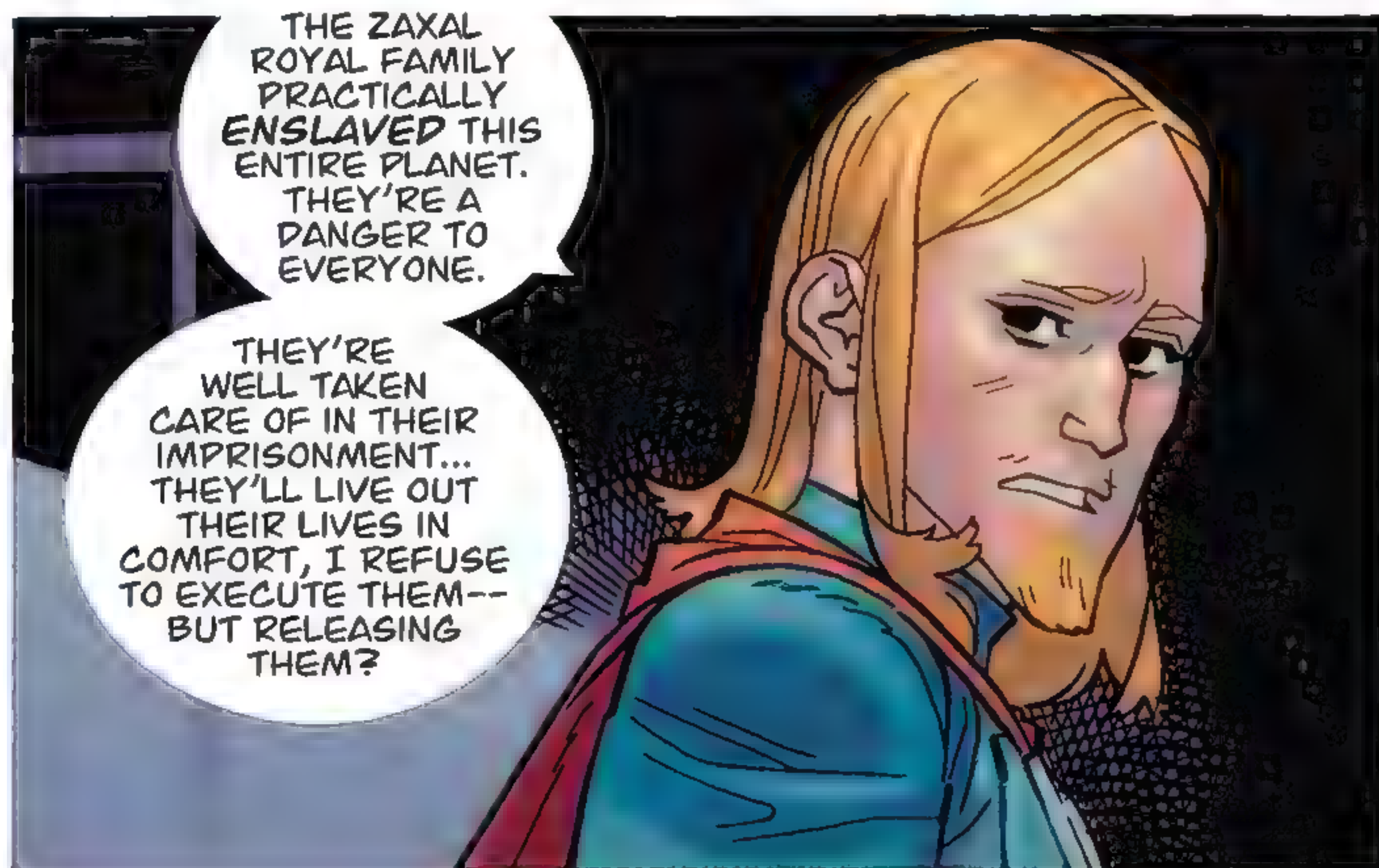
ALL THAT SAID,  
WE WERE NOT  
WITHOUT OUR  
DISAGREEMENTS.

I'M JUST SAYING...  
**FIFTEEN YEARS** IS  
A LONG TIME, IT  
SEEMS LIKE ENOUGH  
PUNISHMENT.

WHAT  
WOULD YOU  
HAVE ME DO?  
**RELEASE**  
THEM?



YES. ▽ THAT'S EXACTLY  
WHAT I'D HAVE YOU  
DO. REX, PLEASE... THE  
PEOPLE LOVE YOU FOR  
YOUR COMPASSION.  
THESE PEOPLE ARE  
NO DANGER  
TO YOU.



THE ZAXAL  
ROYAL FAMILY  
PRACTICALLY  
**ENSLAVED** THIS  
ENTIRE PLANET.  
THEY'RE A  
DANGER TO  
EVERYONE.

THEY'RE  
WELL TAKEN  
CARE OF IN THEIR  
IMPRISONMENT...  
THEY'LL LIVE OUT  
THEIR LIVES IN  
COMFORT, I REFUSE  
TO EXECUTE THEM--  
BUT RELEASING  
THEM?



YOU'RE  
BETTER  
THAN THIS. THE  
PEOPLE KNOW  
YOU'RE BETTER  
THAN THIS.

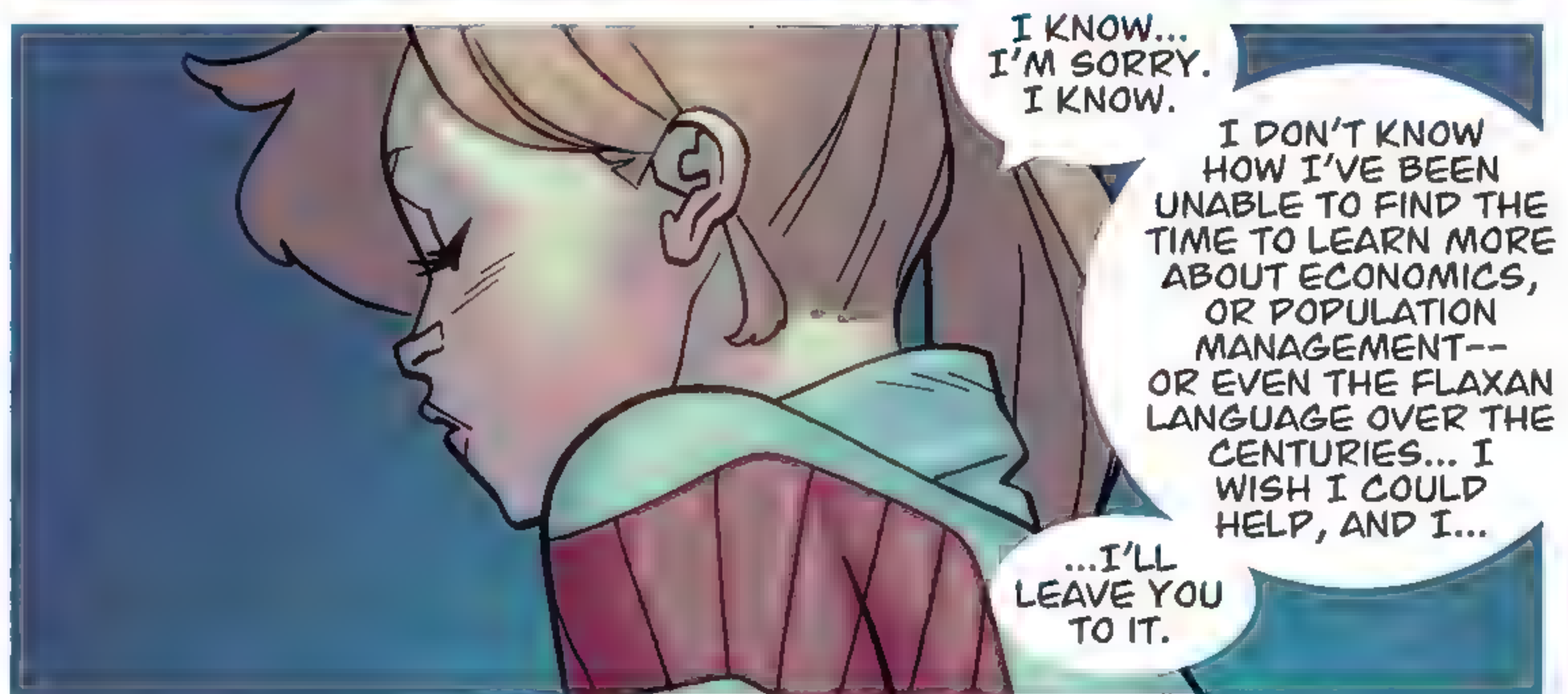
REX,  
PLEASE....



YOU ALWAYS PUSHED  
ME TO BE BETTER, YOU  
HELPED ME KEEP  
MYSELF IN CHECK...

...MAYBE I SHOULD  
HAVE LISTENED TO  
YOU MORE.







I WAS SO BUSY,  
I FAILED TO  
NOTICE WHEN  
YOU STARTED  
TO TURN  
AGAINST ME,  
THE MOMENT  
WHEN I LOST  
YOU.

AMANDA,  
WE'RE  
JUST--

MEETING,  
PLANNING,  
RUNNING  
AN ENTIRE  
CIVILIZATION--I  
KNOW WHAT  
YOU'RE DOING!  
THAT'S WHY  
I'M HERE!

WHY DID YOU NEVER TELL ME ABOUT  
THE ZAXAL WORK CLASSIFICATION ACT?!  
I KNOW, I DON'T KNOW THE LANGUAGE,  
I'VE TRIED TO LEARN THE LANGUAGE...  
BUT THAT DOESN'T GIVE YOU  
THE RIGHT TO KEEP  
THINGS FROM ME!

DESCENDANTS OF  
THE ZAXAL ROYAL FAMILY  
AND THEIR ALLIES ARE  
RESTRICTED ACCESS TO  
CITY CENTERS?! HOW IS  
THAT REMOTELY  
HUMANE?!

DO YOU KNOW THEY  
WORK IN THE MINES OF  
THE WASTELAND TO EARN  
A LIVING WAGE? THEIR  
CHILDREN GROW UP IN TENT  
CITIES! HOW HAVE  
YOU ALLOWED  
THIS TO GO ON?!

(PLEASE  
EXCUSE  
ME.)

WHAT YOU  
HAVE HEARD IS AN  
EXAGGERATION.

THEY'RE KEPT FROM THE GENERAL  
POPULATION FOR **SECURITY** REASONS.  
YOU REMEMBER THE YEARS AFTER  
THE WAR--HOW MANY ZAXALS  
WERE EXECUTED IN  
THE STREETS.

I COULD  
THINK OF  
NO OTHER  
ALTERNATIVE,  
IT'S FOR  
THEIR OWN  
SAFETY.

THEIR LIVING  
CONDITIONS ARE  
ADEQUATE. THE  
WASTELAND HAS  
CHANGED A GREAT  
DEAL OVER THE  
LAST FEW DECADES,  
DUE IN LARGE  
PART TO THEIR  
SETTLEMENT OF  
THE AREA.

WHY HAVEN'T WE BEEN  
COMBATING THIS WITH  
EDUCATION AND  
BUILDING A SENSE OF  
COMMUNITY?

WHEN DID  
YOU **GIVE UP**  
ON INTEGRATING  
THEM INTO  
SOCIETY?!

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN  
WHAT WE'RE DOING HERE--  
WHAT'S AT STAKE? THERE  
ARE MANY WHO WOULD  
PREFER THINGS TO BE  
AS THEY WERE UNDER  
THE ZAXALS.

I HAVE TO  
OPPOSE RADICAL  
POLITICAL FACTIONS  
EVERY ELECTION--  
SOME HAVE EVEN  
PROPOSED A RETURN  
OF SLAVERY.

THEY'RE THE  
GRANDCHILDREN  
OF OUR ENEMY  
AT THIS POINT...  
BUT THEY'RE  
STILL  
DANGEROUS.

I PUSHED YOU  
AWAY WHEN I  
SHOULD HAVE  
BROUGHT YOU IN,  
EXPLAINED THINGS  
BETTER... SHOWN  
YOU WHAT I WAS  
TALKING ABOUT.

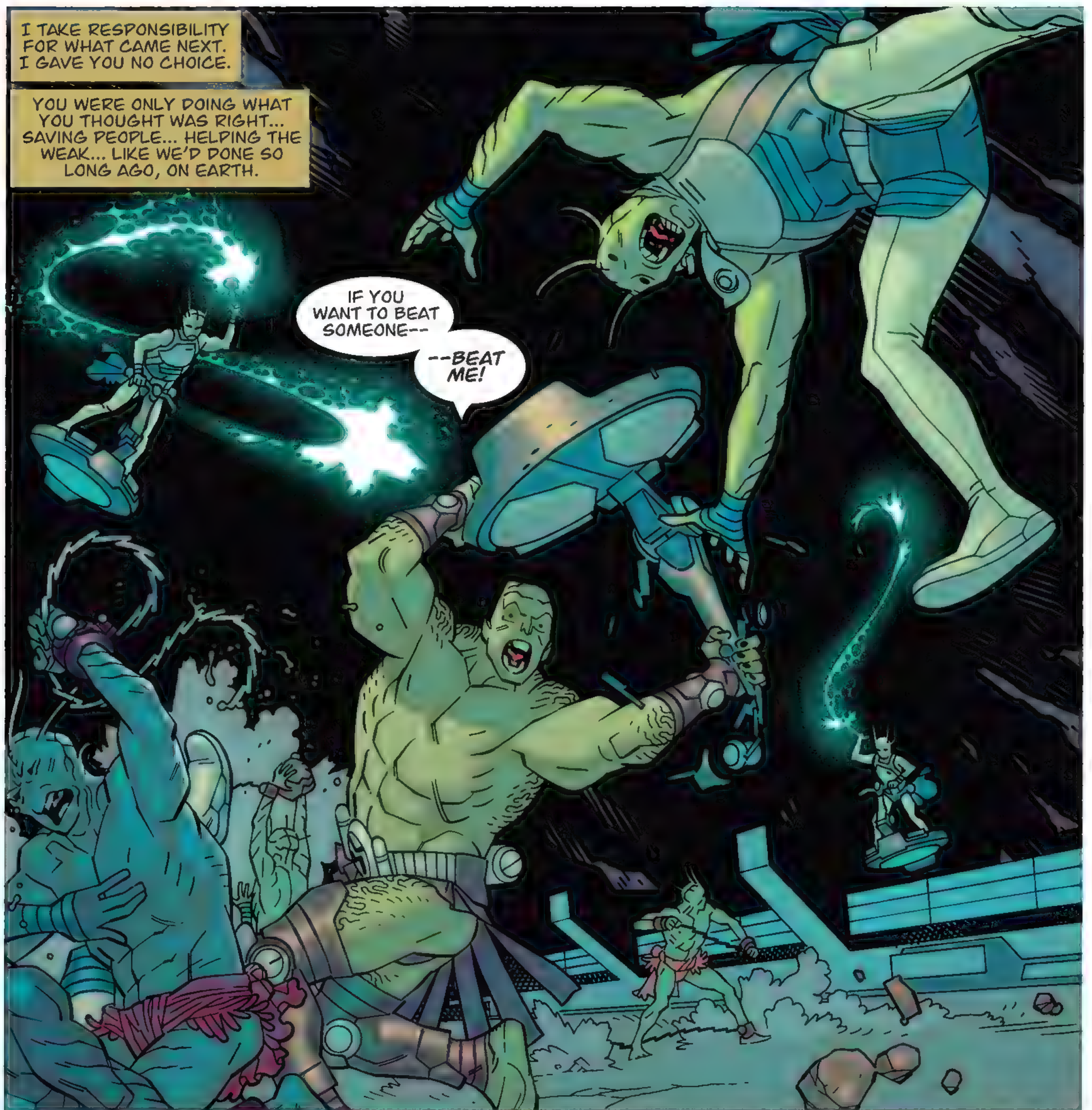


I TAKE RESPONSIBILITY  
FOR WHAT CAME NEXT.  
I GAVE YOU NO CHOICE.

YOU WERE ONLY DOING WHAT  
YOU THOUGHT WAS RIGHT...  
SAVING PEOPLE... HELPING THE  
WEAK... LIKE WE'D DONE SO  
LONG AGO, ON EARTH.

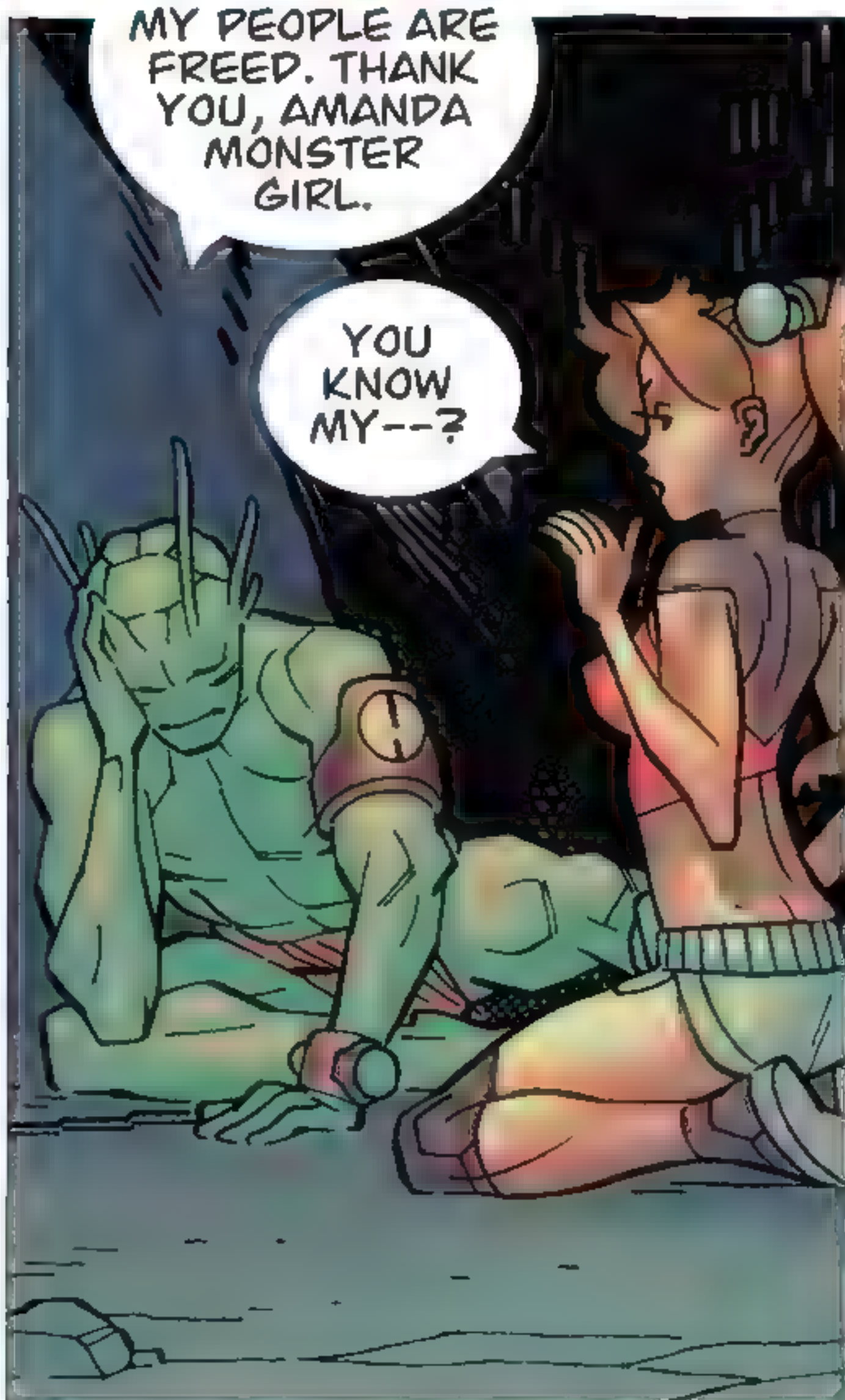
IF YOU  
WANT TO BEAT  
SOMEONE---

--BEAT  
ME!



MY PEOPLE ARE  
FREED. THANK  
YOU, AMANDA  
MONSTER  
GIRL.

YOU  
KNOW  
MY---?



YOUR LANGUAGE WAS USED  
AS CODE IN THE WAR. MY  
PEOPLE CRACKED IT AND  
WE'VE TAUGHT OUR  
CHILDREN FOR  
GENERATIONS.

WE USE IT  
IN THE MINES  
SO THE  
BOSSSES WON'T  
UNDERSTAND  
US.



WELL, YOU  
WON'T HAVE  
TO WORRY  
ABOUT THAT  
ANYMORE.

I  
PROMISE.



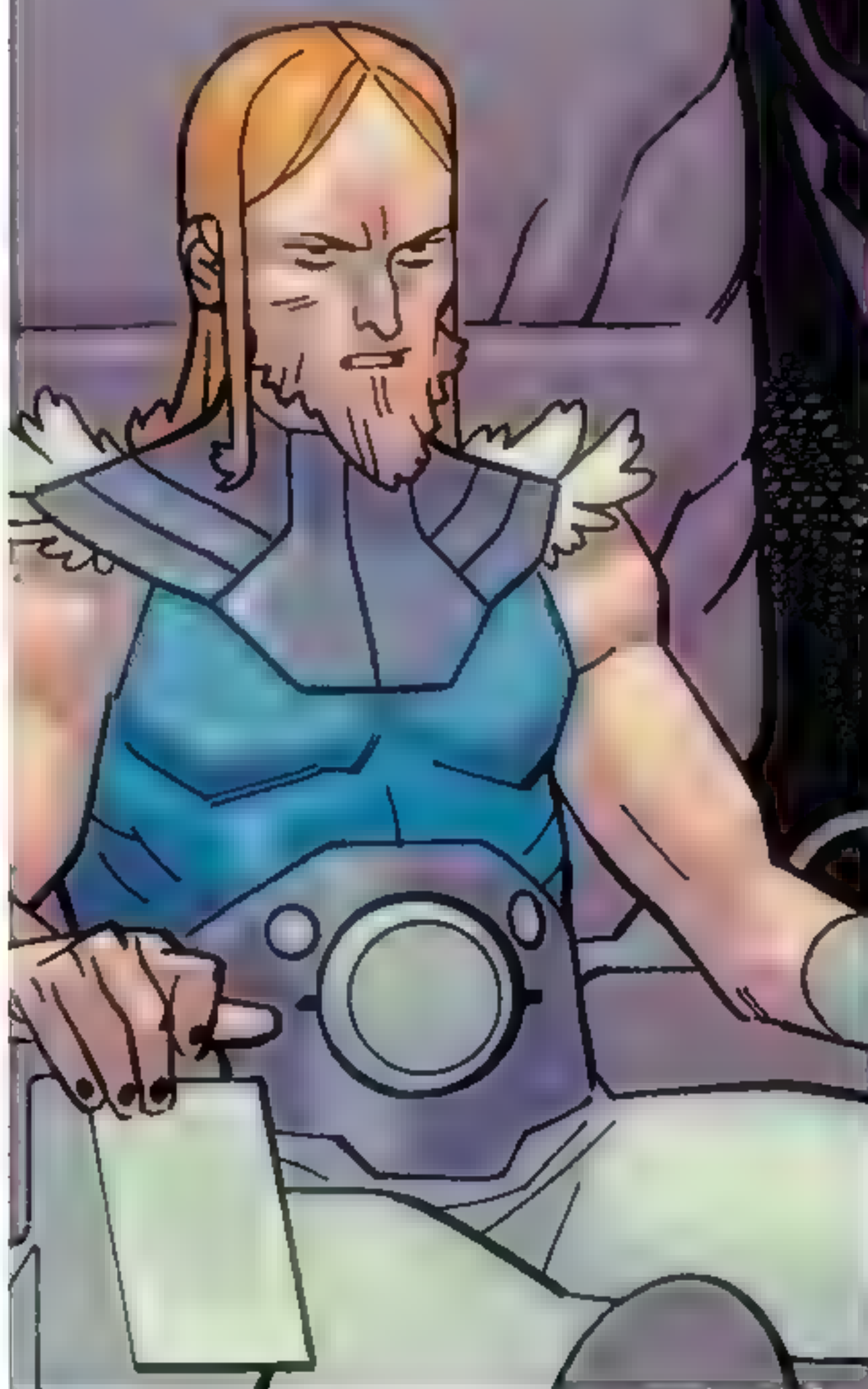


YOU MADE THEM SECOND CLASS CITIZENS, REX! PEOPLE ARE PUNISHED FOR GIVING THEM WORK-- THEY CAN'T FEED THEIR YOUNG!

THE MINES WERE THEIR ONLY MEANS OF SUPPORTING THEMSELVES-- AND THE BOSSES KNEW THAT. THEY WERE ESSENTIALLY SLAVES!



YOU DON'T EVEN REALIZE WHAT YOU'VE DONE?



I REALIZE EXACTLY WHAT I'VE DONE.

I WAS HELPING PEOPLE. REMEMBER THAT--DOING THE RIGHT THING?



YOU UNDERMINED MY AUTHORITY!

DO YOU NOT SEE WHAT A DELICATE HOLD I HAVE ON THESE PEOPLE?! ALL OF THIS COULD COME CRASHING DOWN AROUND US AT ANY MINUTE!

IT'S MY RESPONSIBILITY TO HOLD IT ALL TOGETHER! MINE! THAT WEIGHT RESTS ON MY SHOULDERS.

AND YOU ACTUALLY THINK YOU WERE HELPING?!

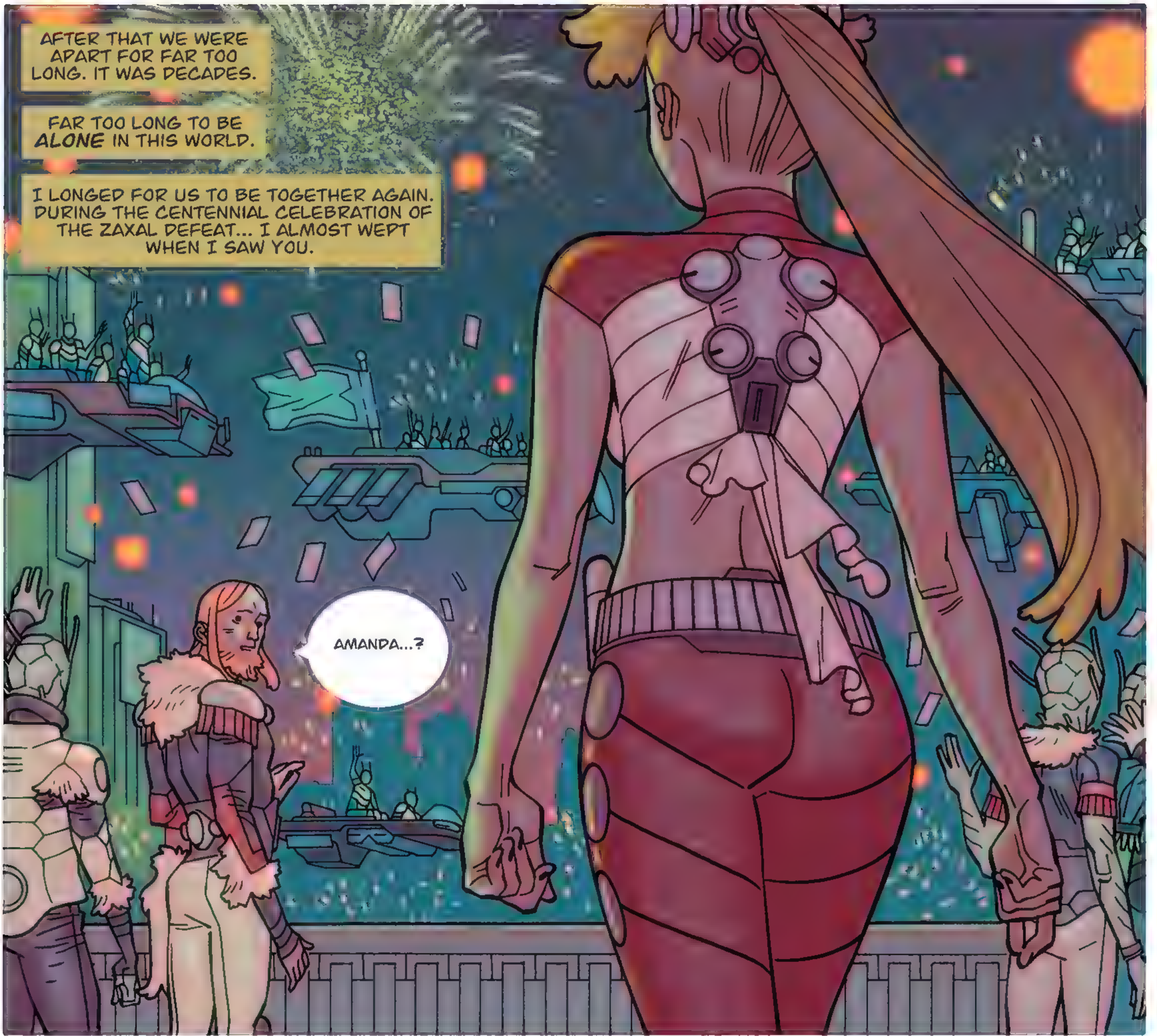


GET OUT OF MY SIGHT.

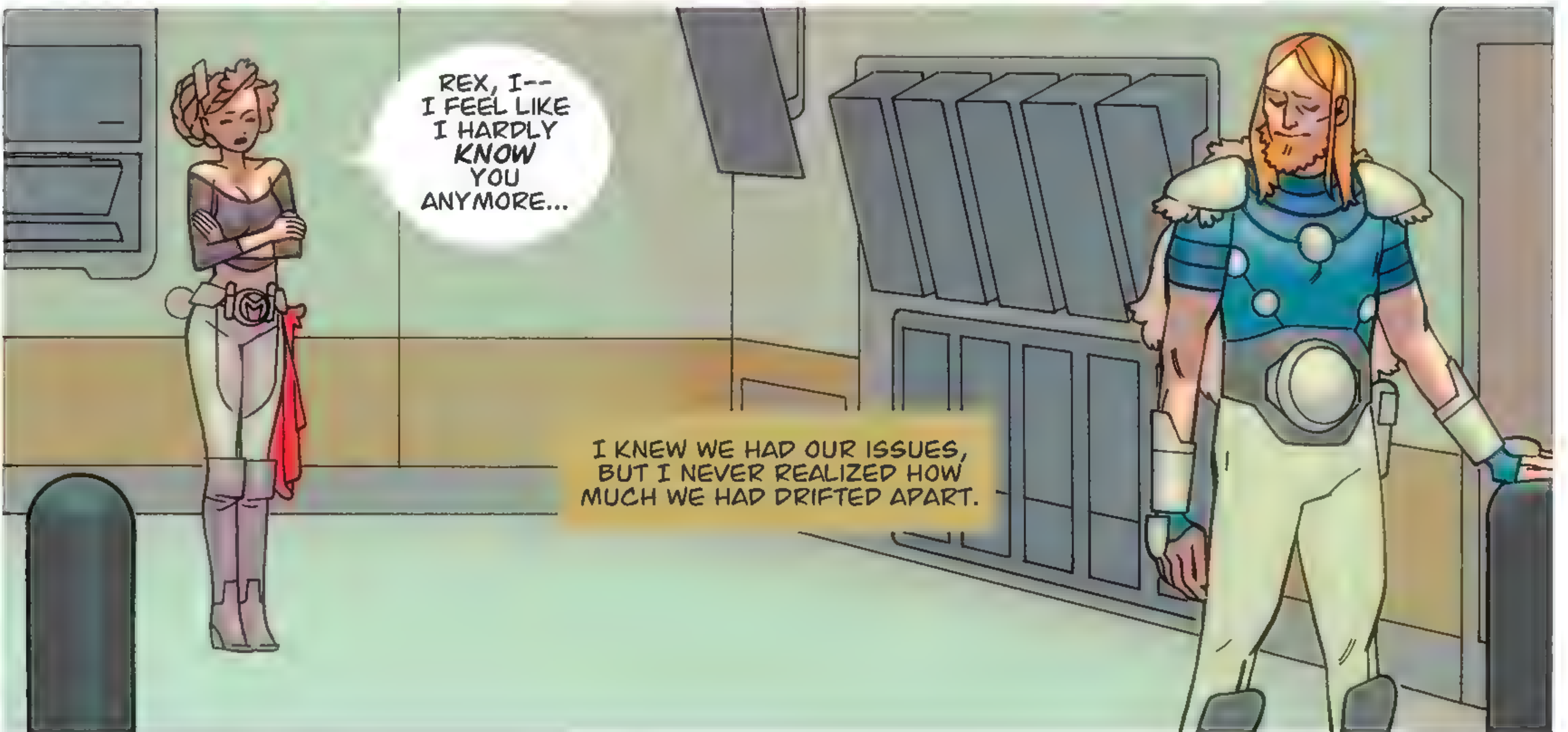
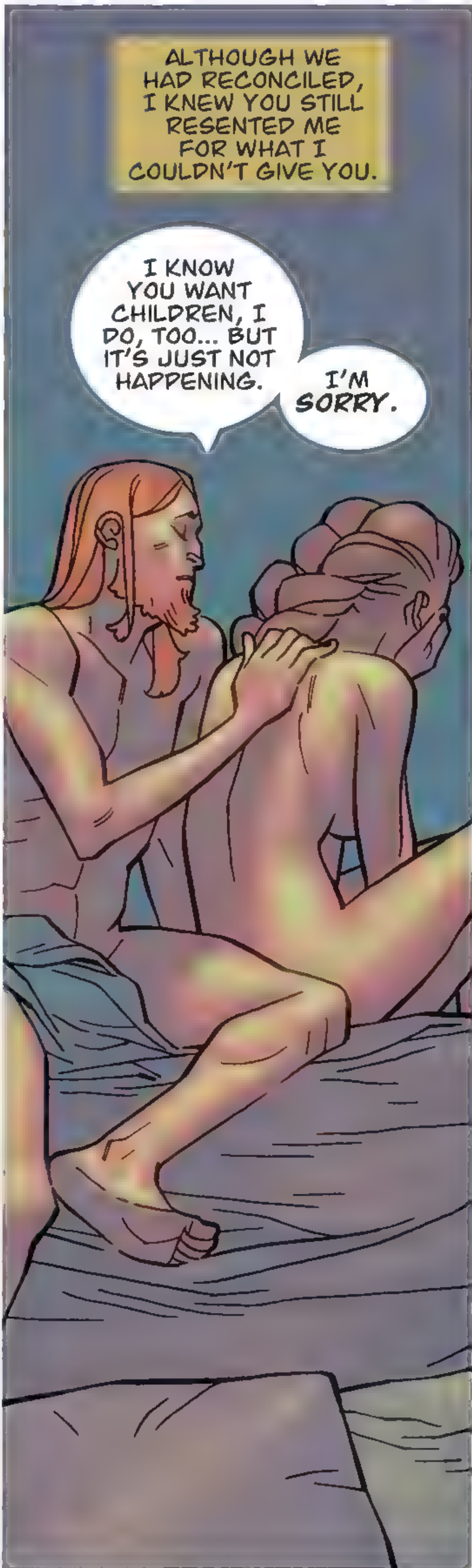
I AM SORRY THAT IT HAS TAKEN ME THIS LONG TO ADMIT THAT I WAS WRONG THAT DAY.



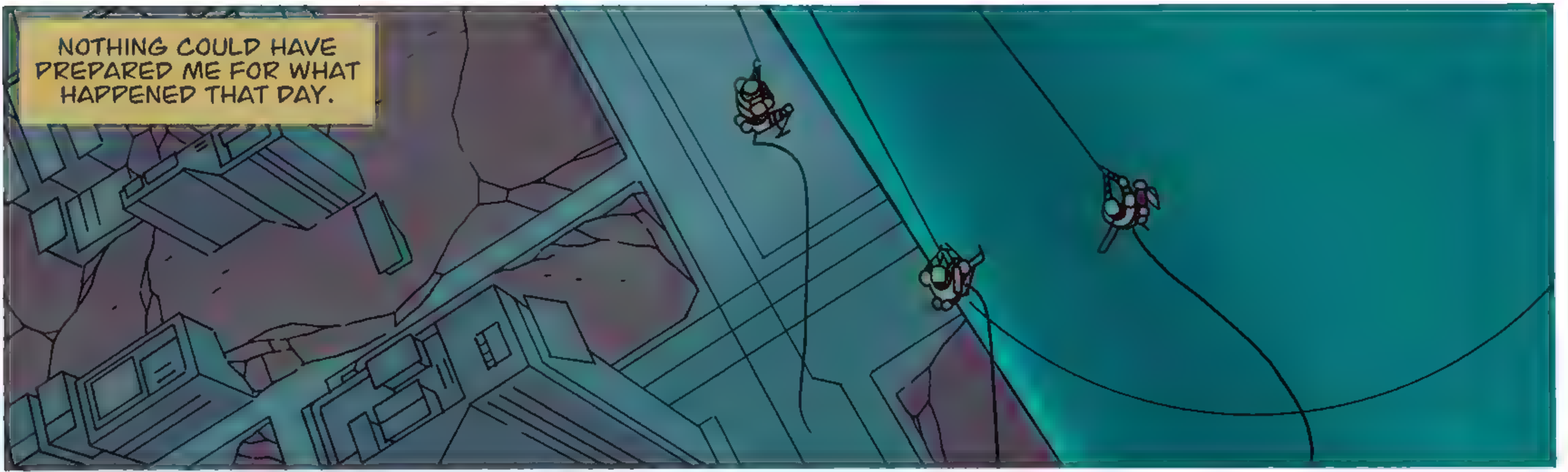












NOTHING COULD HAVE PREPARED ME FOR WHAT HAPPENED THAT DAY.



WE ARE ZULL AND ZALL, TWIN HEIRS TO THE ZAXAL EMPIRE! YOU HAVE BROUGHT A BLIGHT UPON ALL PEOPLE OF THE FLAXAN WORLD, REX ROBOT!

AND FOR THIS YOU MUST BE PUNISHED-- AND YOUR REIGN BROUGHT TO AN END!



I COMMAND LEGIONS OF SOLDIERS--I HAVE THE PEOPLE ON MY SIDE! YOU WERE FOOLISH TO EVEN ATTEMPT THIS!

DEATH TO ALL ZAXALS!

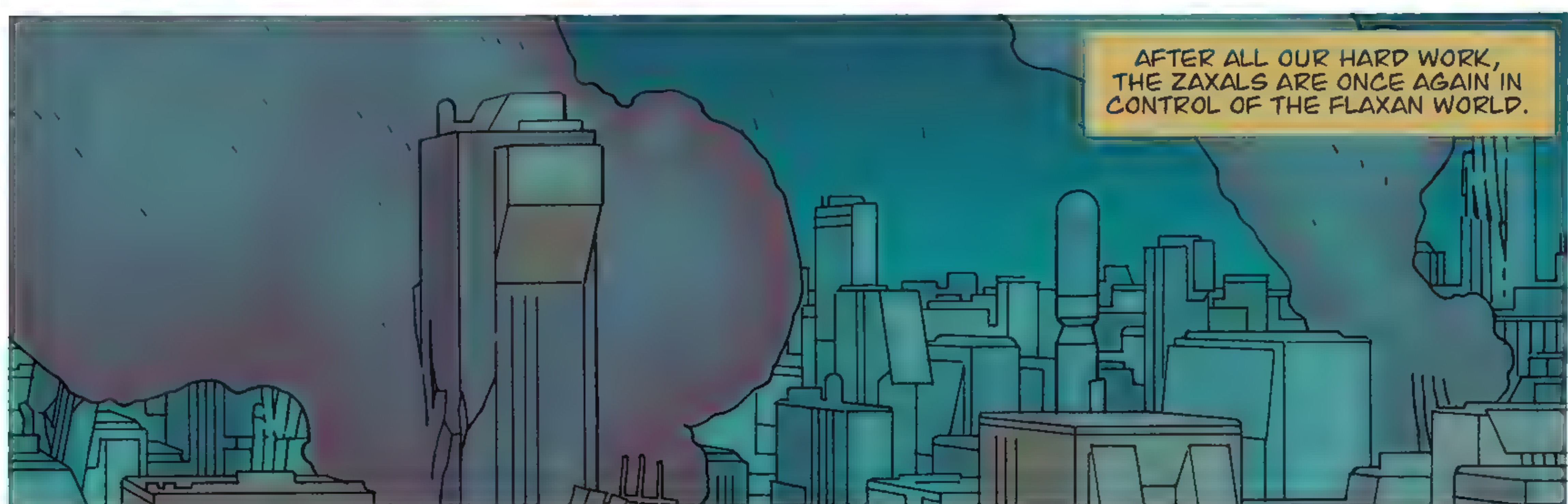
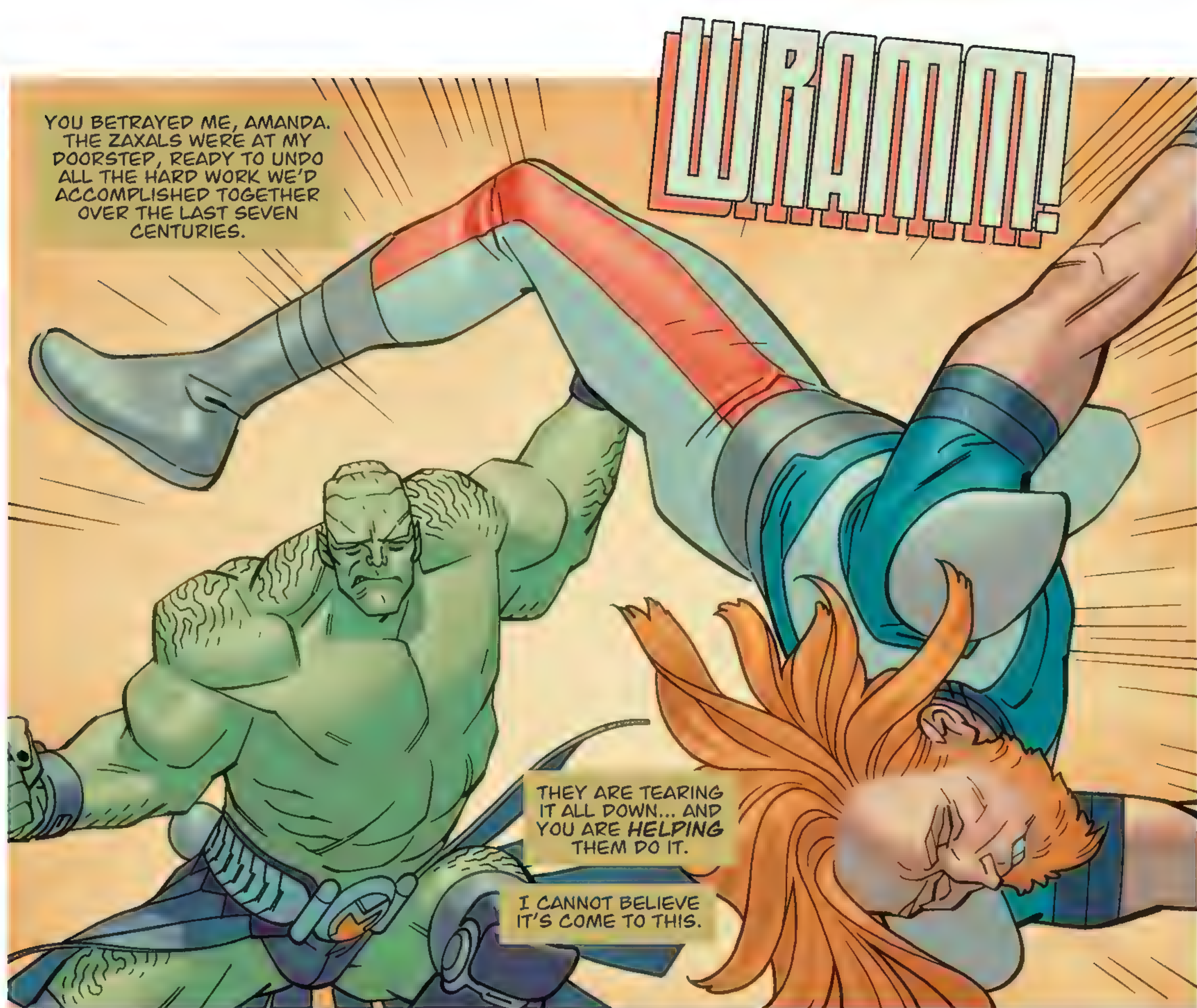
MONSTER GIRL--GET THEM!



AMANDA?

NO.

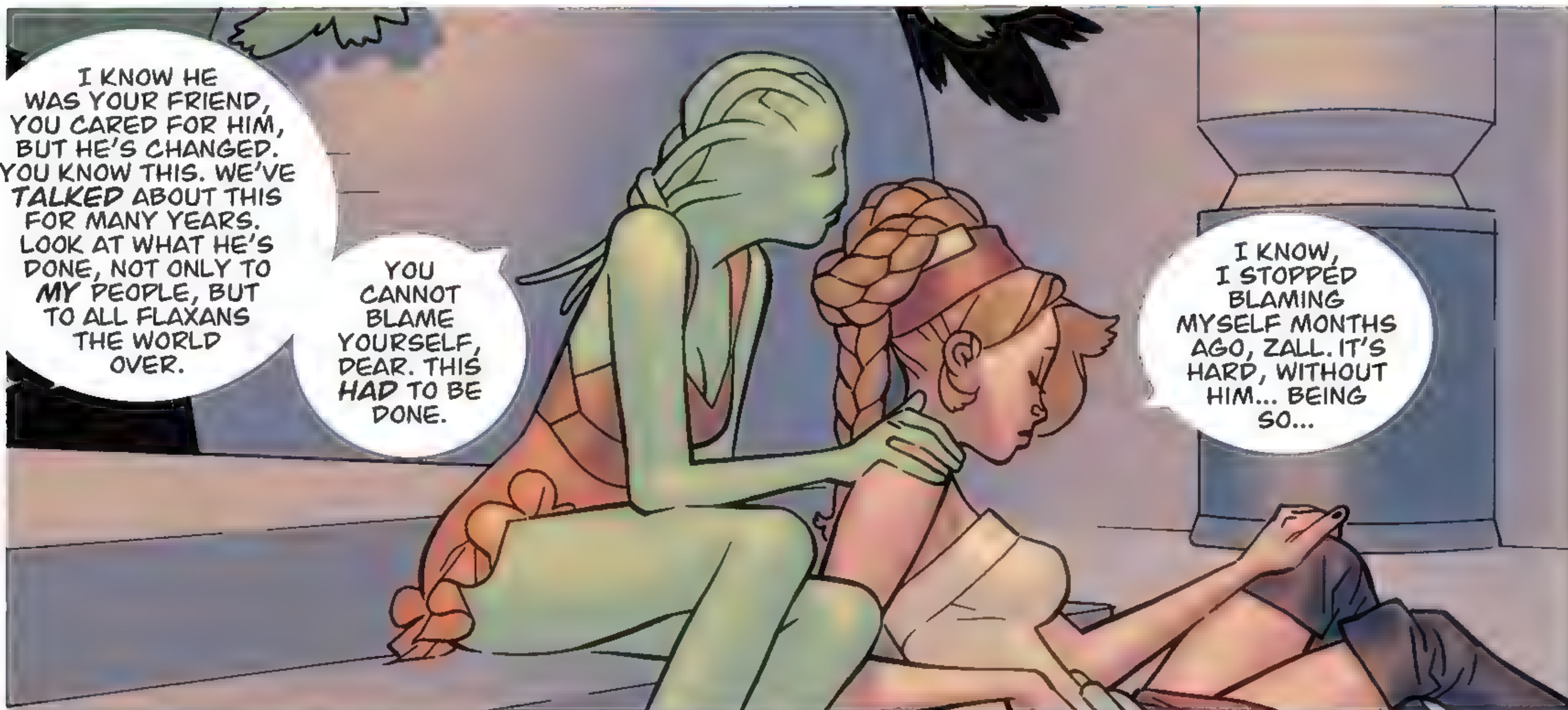








AMANDA, YOU RUINED EVERYTHING.



I KNOW HE WAS YOUR FRIEND, YOU CARED FOR HIM, BUT HE'S CHANGED. YOU KNOW THIS. WE'VE TALKED ABOUT THIS FOR MANY YEARS. LOOK AT WHAT HE'S DONE, NOT ONLY TO MY PEOPLE, BUT TO ALL FLAXANS THE WORLD OVER.

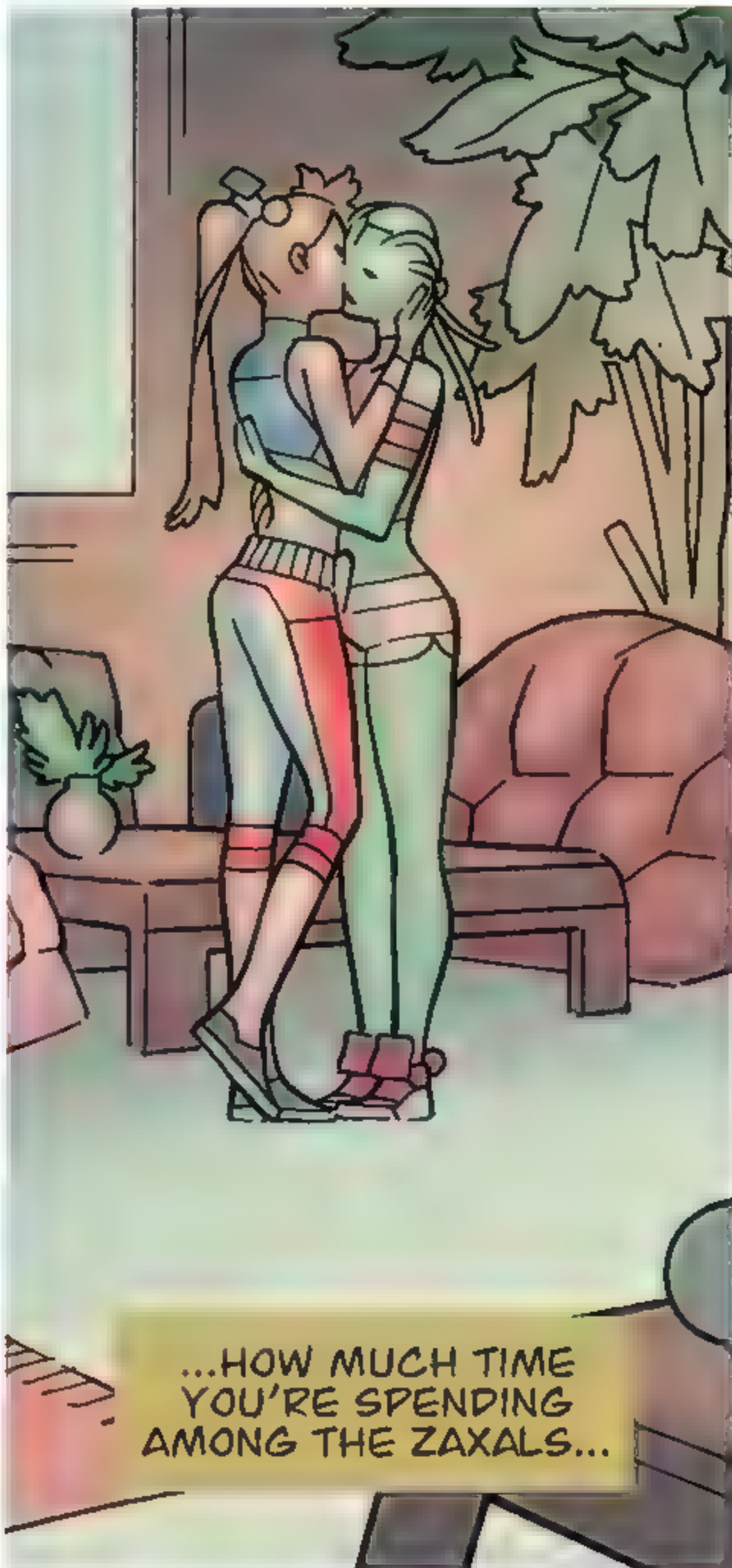
YOU CANNOT BLAME YOURSELF, DEAR. THIS HAD TO BE DONE.

I KNOW, I STOPPED BLAMING MYSELF MONTHS AGO, ZALL. IT'S HARD, WITHOUT HIM... BEING SO...



...ALONE.

SOMETIMES I THINK ABOUT HOW MUCH TIME HAS PASSED SINCE I WAS USURPED...

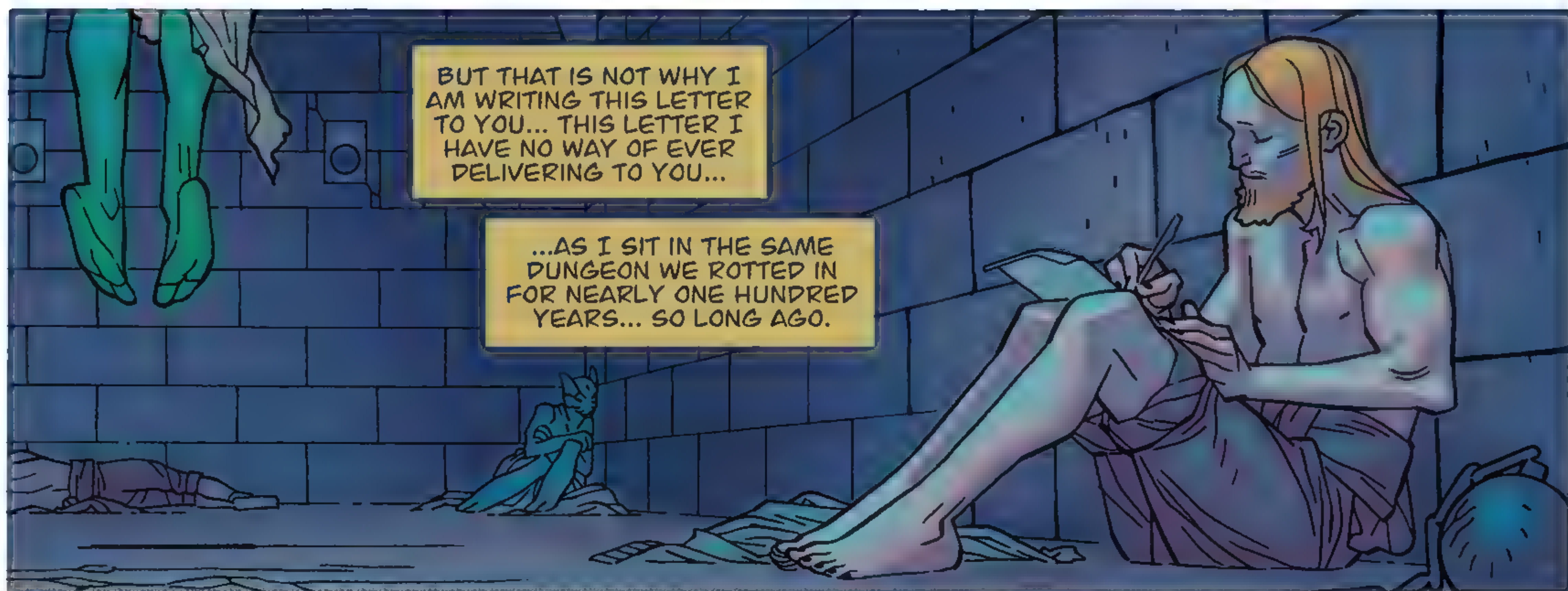


...HOW MUCH TIME YOU'RE SPENDING AMONG THE ZAXALS...



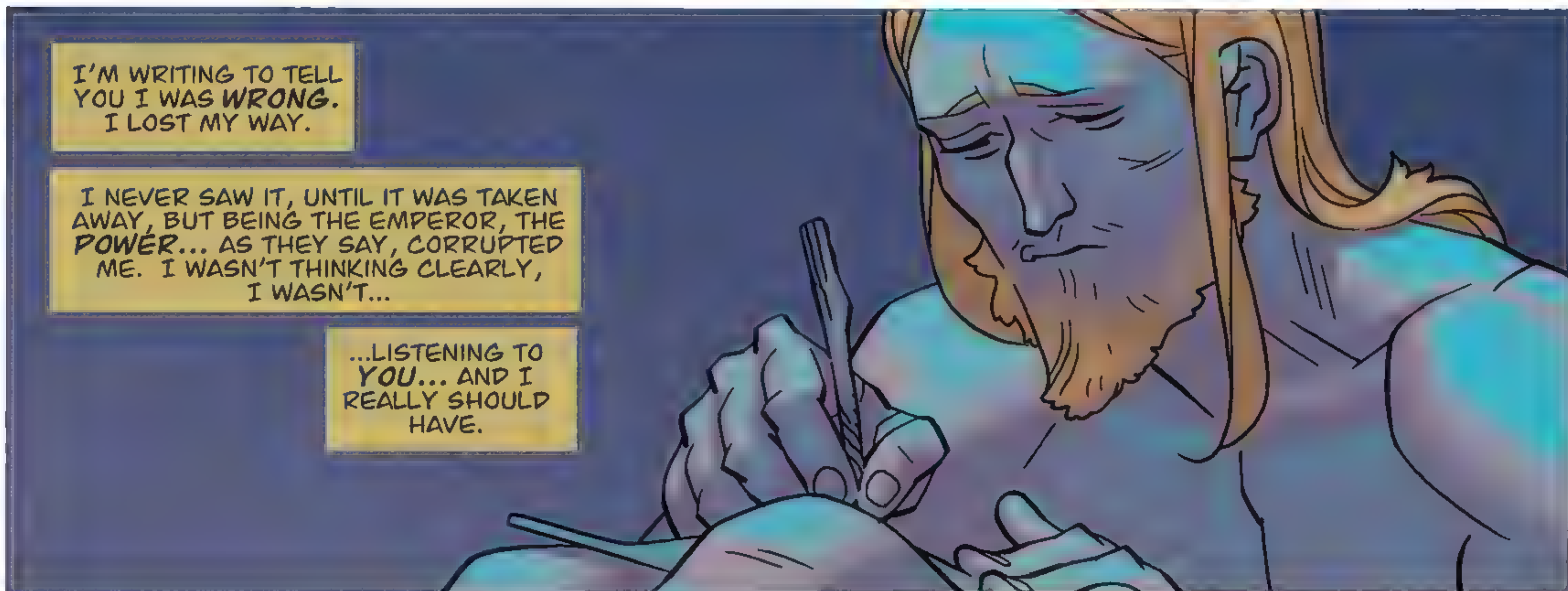
HOW CLOSE YOU MUST BE GROWING TO THEM.





BUT THAT IS NOT WHY I AM WRITING THIS LETTER TO YOU... THIS LETTER I HAVE NO WAY OF EVER DELIVERING TO YOU...

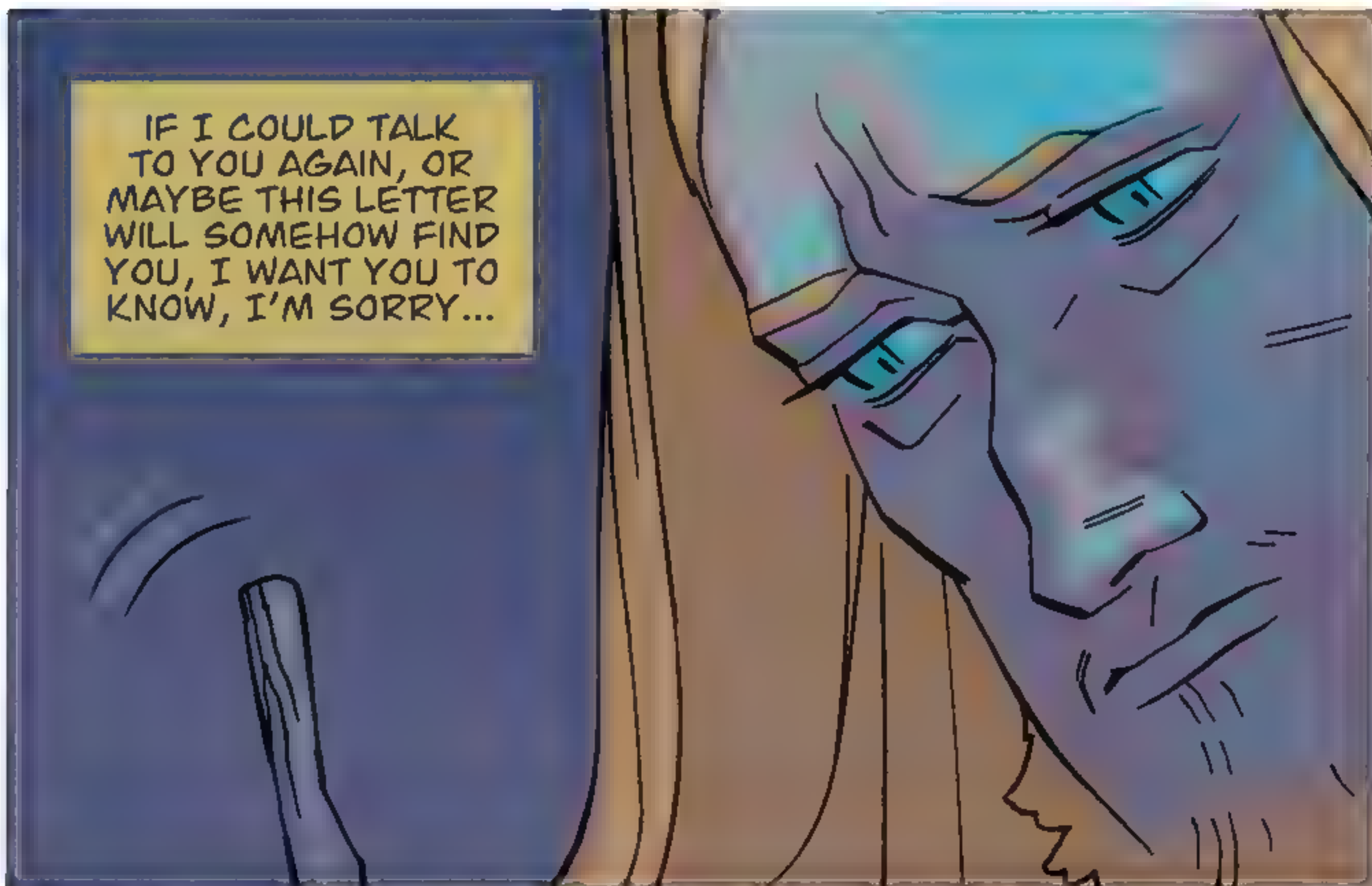
...AS I SIT IN THE SAME DUNGEON WE ROTTED IN FOR NEARLY ONE HUNDRED YEARS... SO LONG AGO.



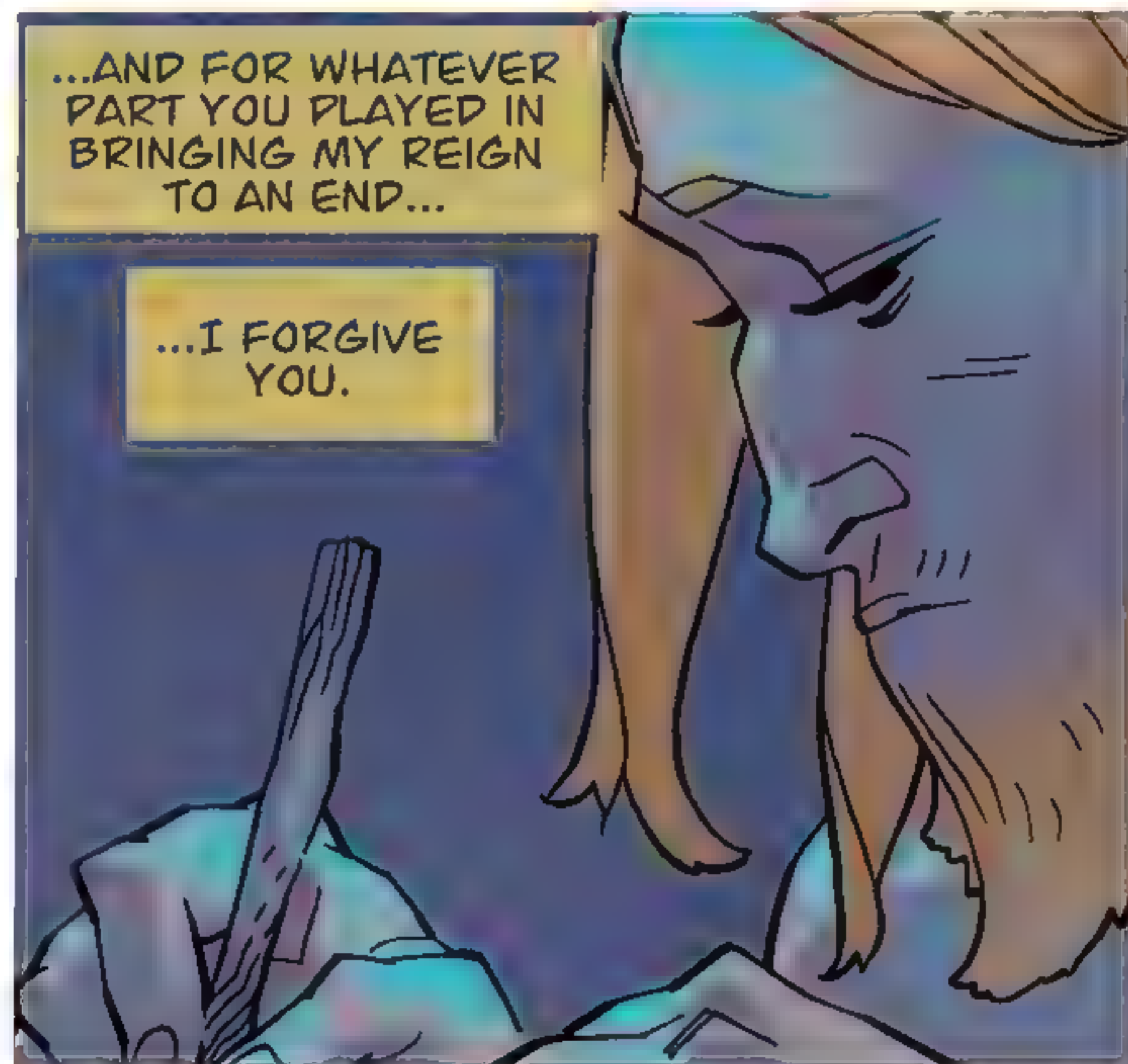
I'M WRITING TO TELL YOU I WAS **WRONG**. I LOST MY WAY.

I NEVER SAW IT, UNTIL IT WAS TAKEN AWAY, BUT BEING THE EMPEROR, THE **POWER**... AS THEY SAY, CORRUPTED ME. I WASN'T THINKING CLEARLY, I WASN'T...

...LISTENING TO **YOU**... AND I REALLY SHOULD HAVE.

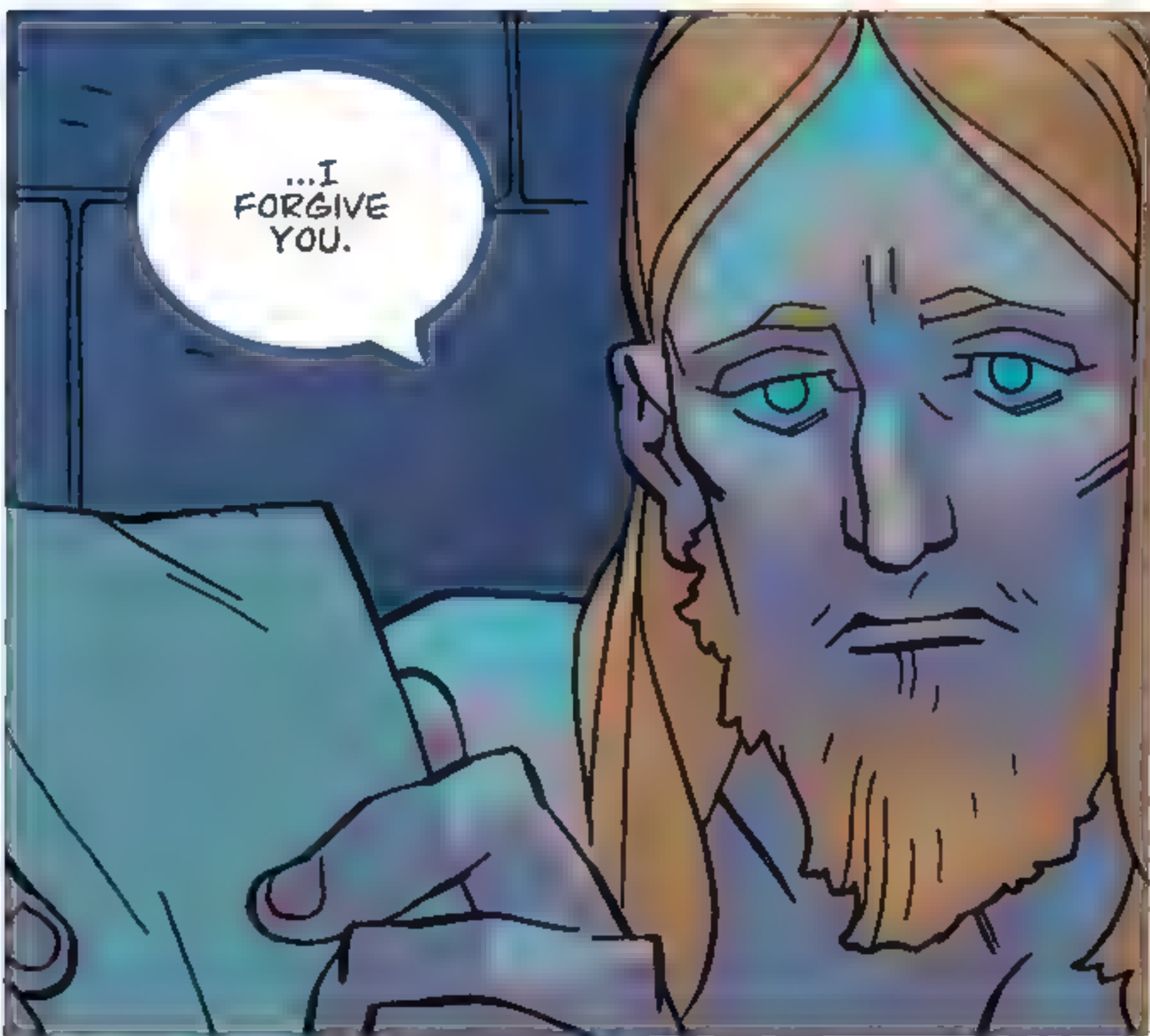


IF I COULD TALK TO YOU AGAIN, OR MAYBE THIS LETTER WILL SOMEHOW FIND YOU, I WANT YOU TO KNOW, I'M SORRY...

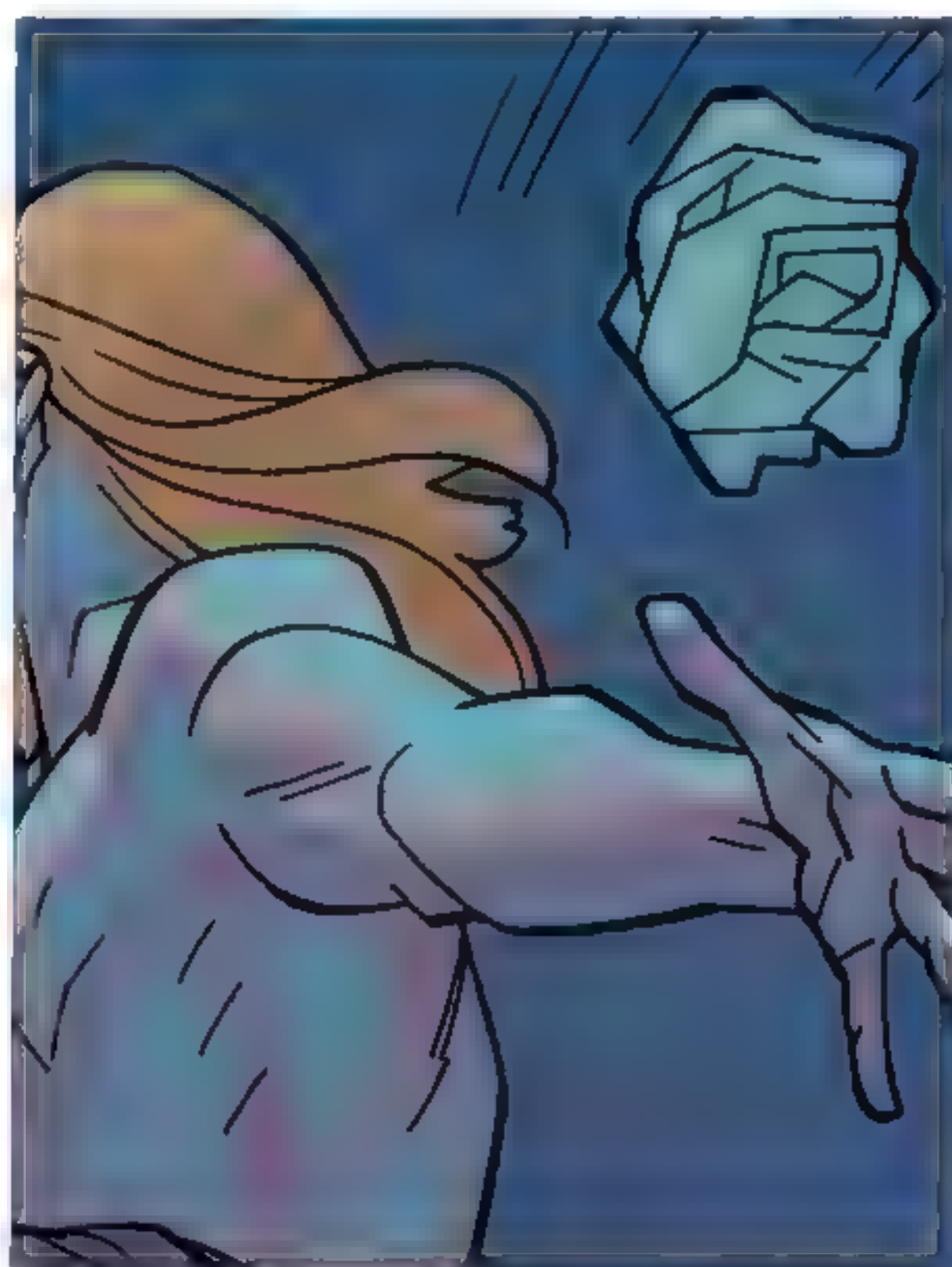
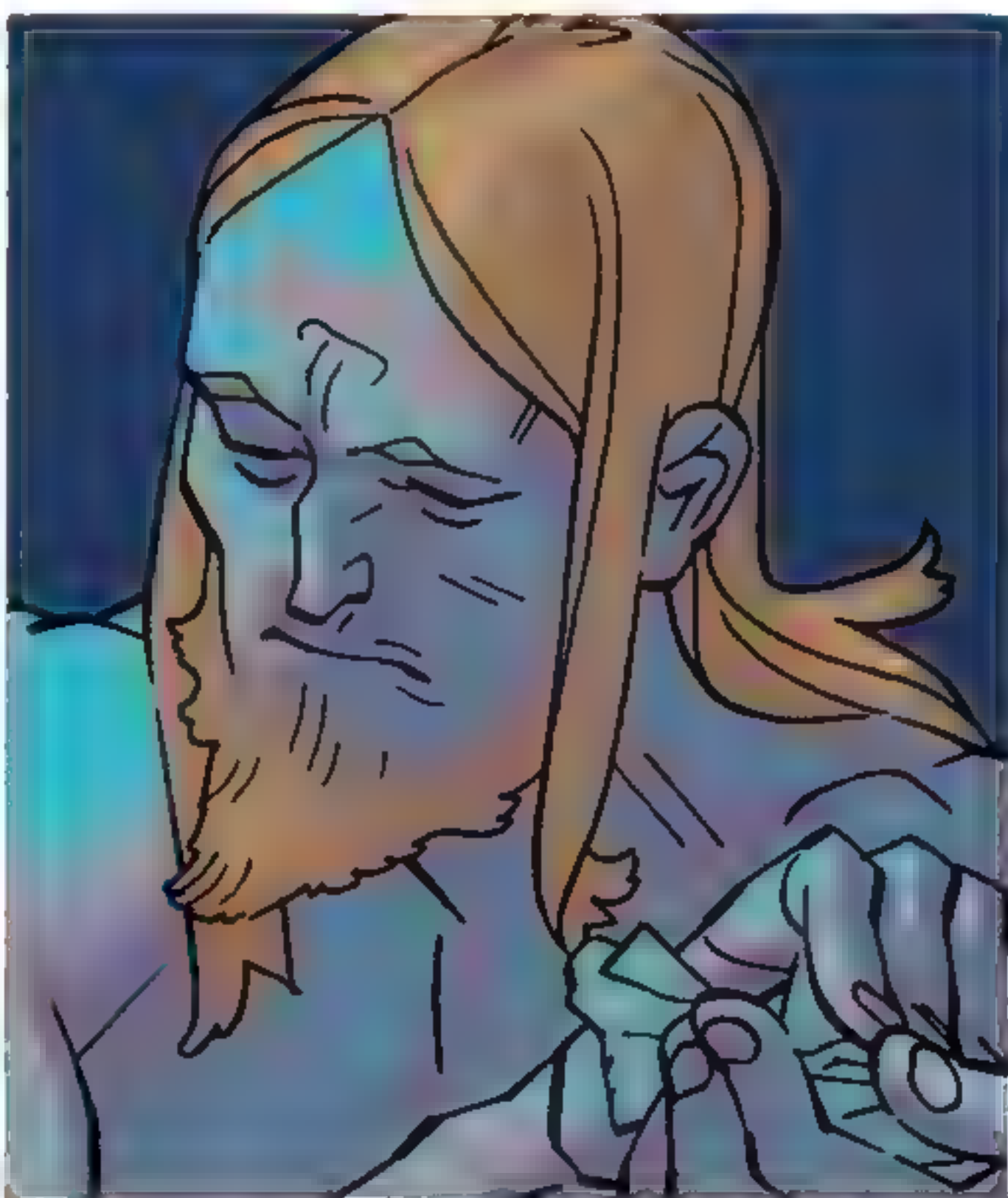


...AND FOR WHATEVER PART YOU PLAYED IN BRINGING MY REIGN TO AN END...

...I FORGIVE YOU.



...I FORGIVE YOU.

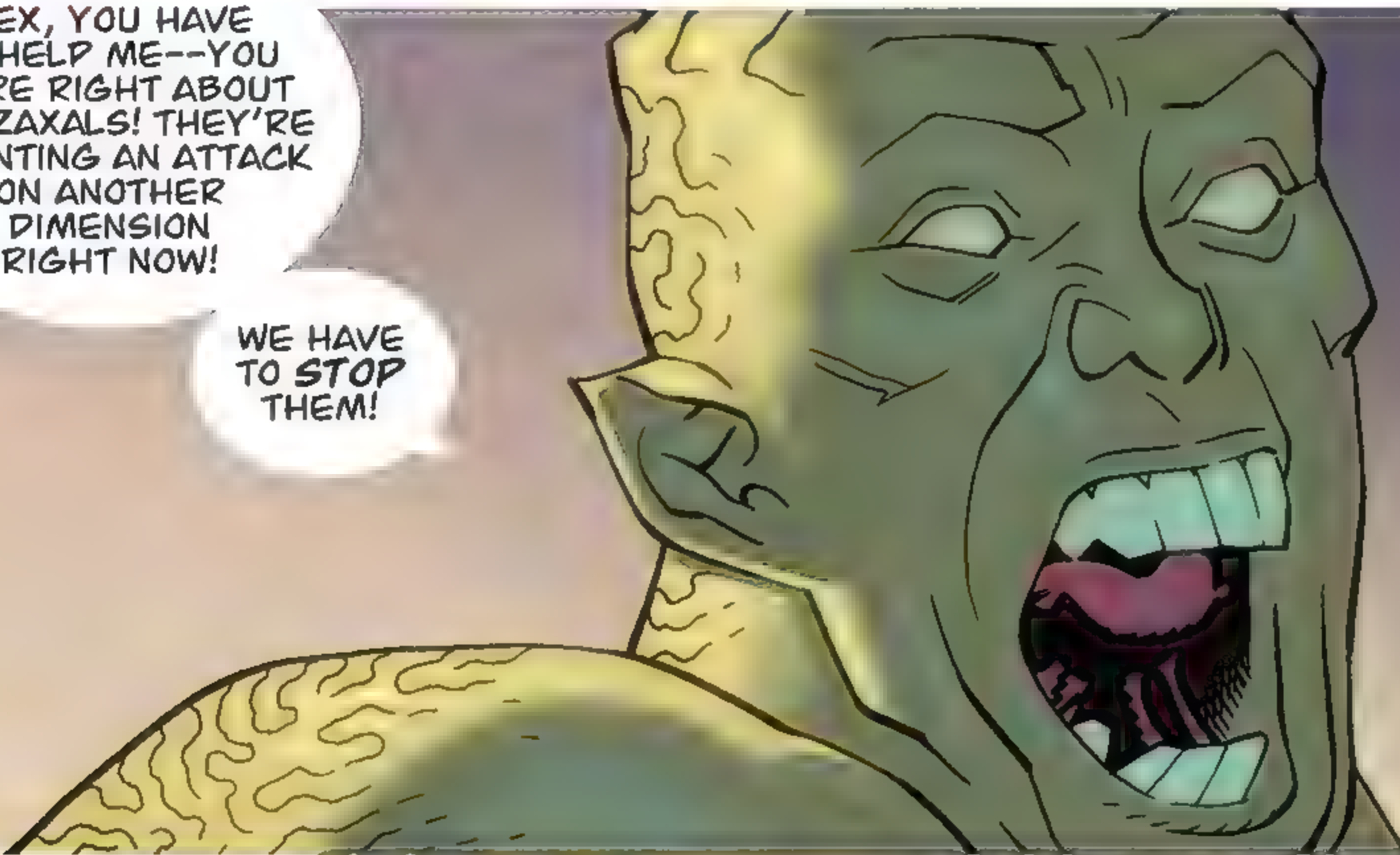






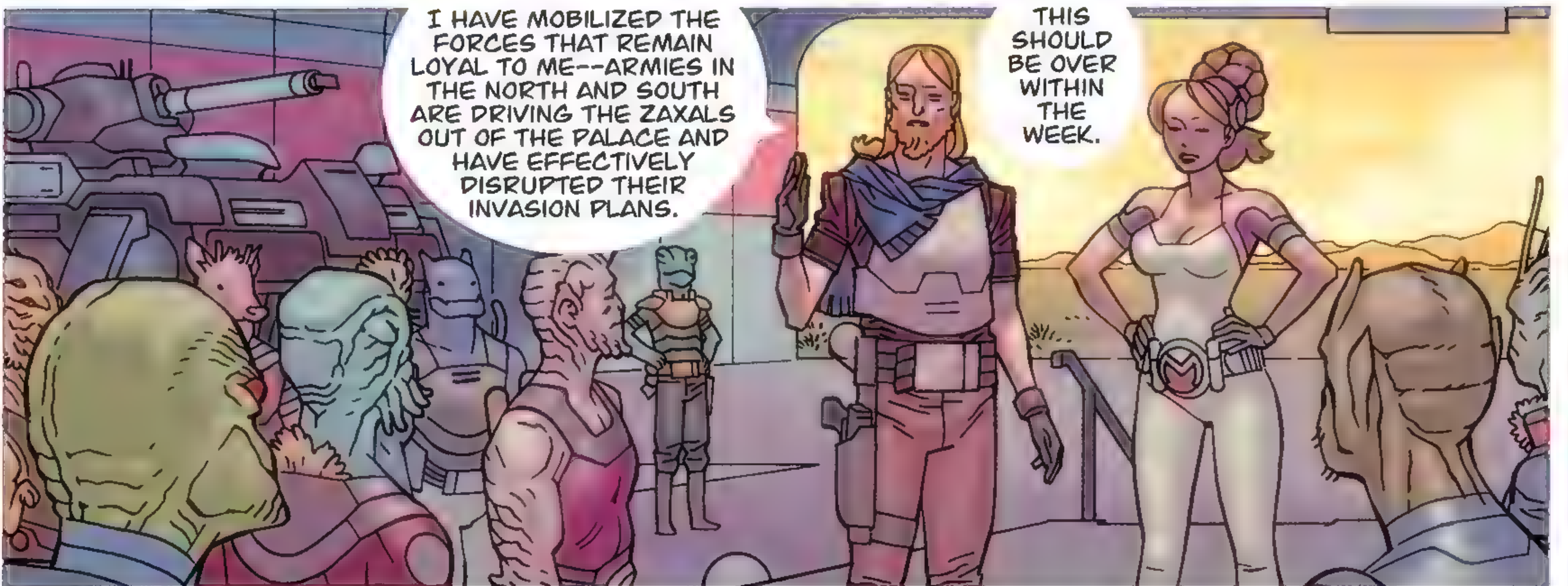
REX, YOU HAVE  
TO HELP ME--YOU  
WERE RIGHT ABOUT  
THE ZAXALS! THEY'RE  
MOUNTING AN ATTACK  
ON ANOTHER  
DIMENSION  
RIGHT NOW!

WE HAVE  
TO **STOP**  
THEM!

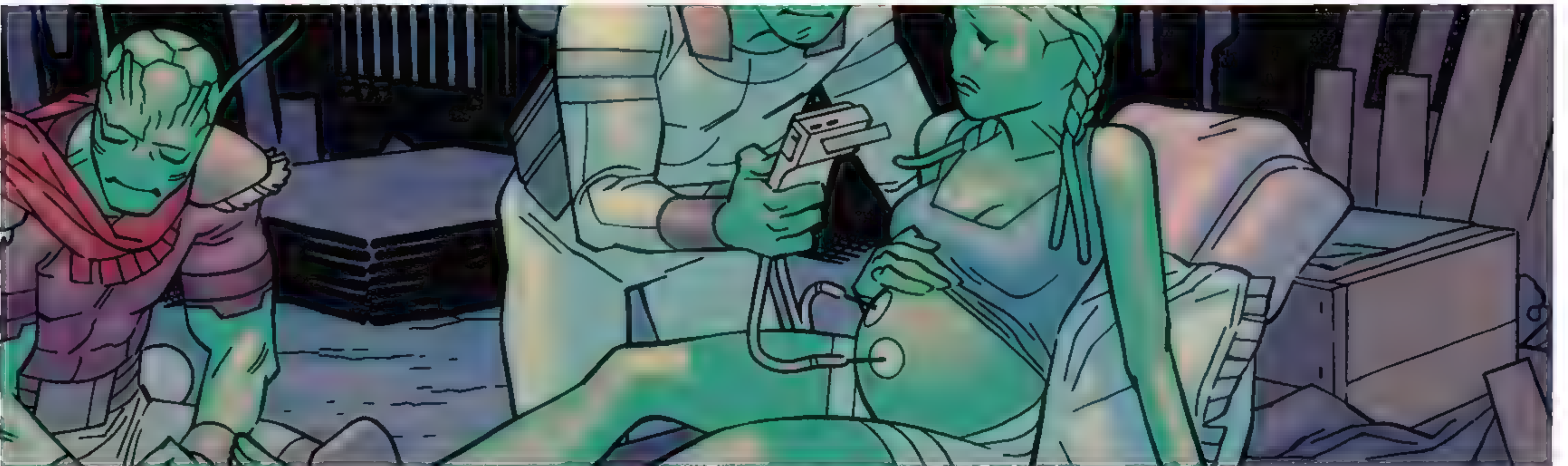
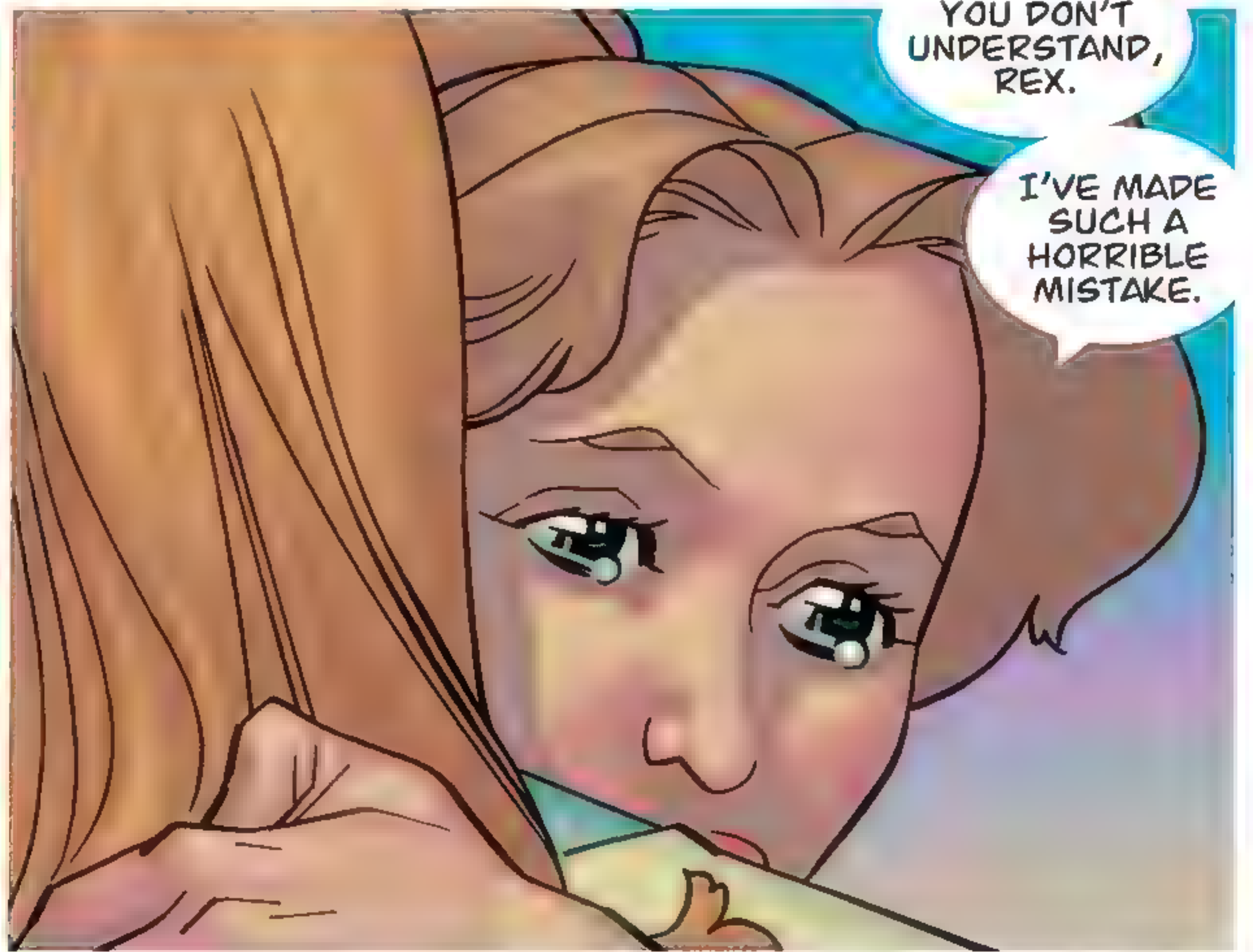
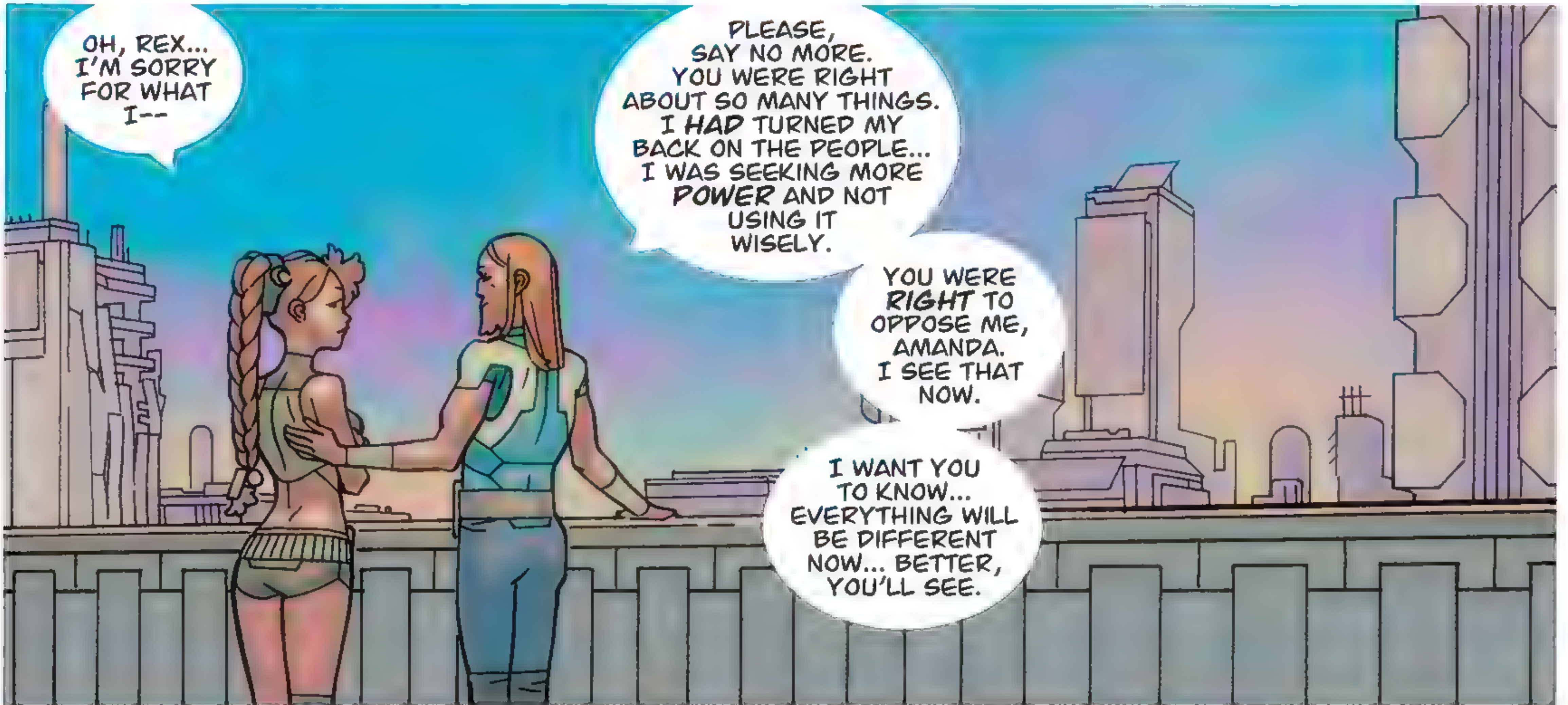
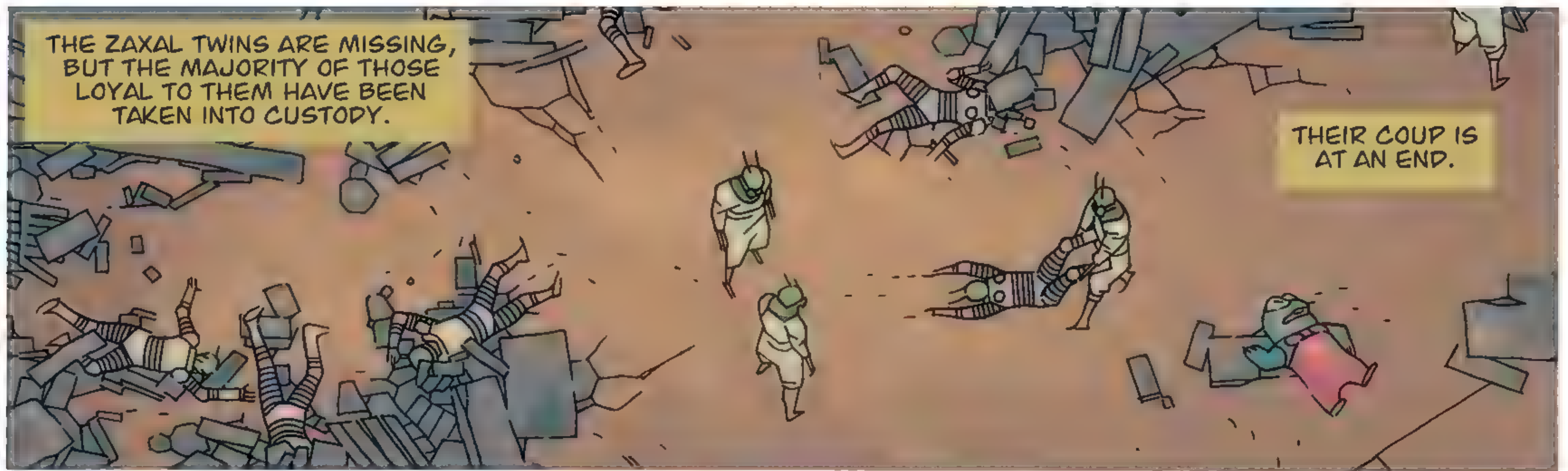


I HAVE MOBILIZED THE  
FORCES THAT REMAIN  
LOYAL TO ME--ARMIES IN  
THE NORTH AND SOUTH  
ARE DRIVING THE ZAXALS  
OUT OF THE PALACE AND  
HAVE EFFECTIVELY  
DISRUPTED THEIR  
INVASION PLANS.

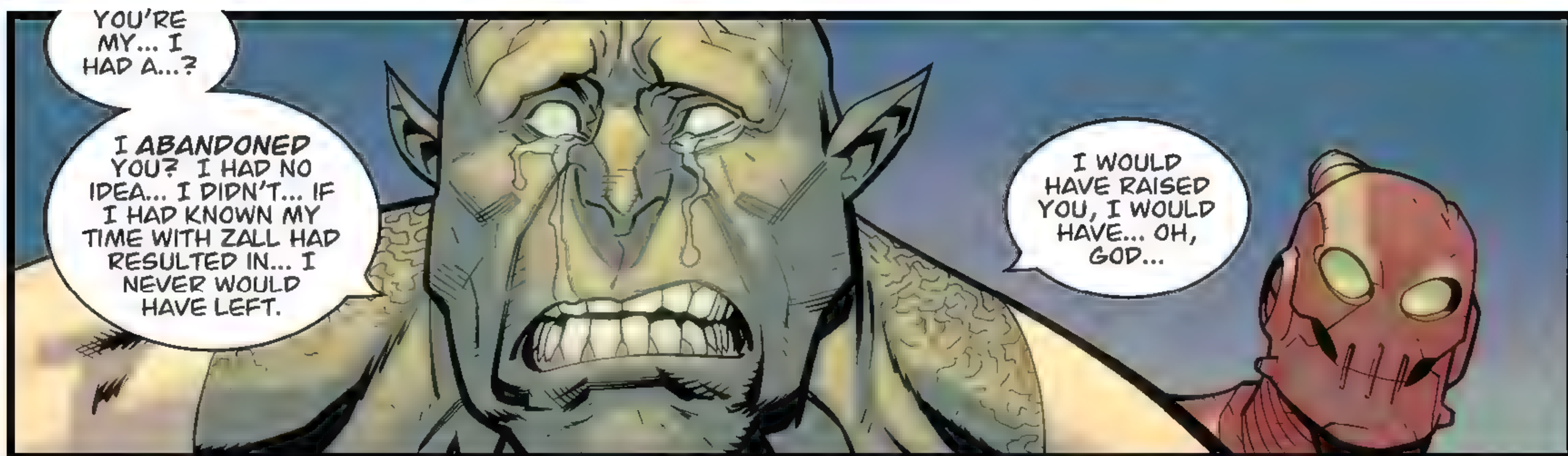
THIS  
SHOULD  
BE OVER  
WITHIN  
THE WEEK.















HOW--  
HOW  
COULD  
I--?

NO TIME  
FOR THAT NOW,  
AMANDA. WE'LL  
SORT THIS OUT  
LATER--FOR NOW,  
HE JUST NEEDS  
TO BE STOPPED.



DO NOT  
UNDERESTIMATE  
ME! I COMMAND  
THE FLAXAN  
LEGIONS--



--YOUR  
END--YOUR  
WORLD'S  
END--WILL  
BE SWIFT!



SOON I  
WILL HAVE THE  
OPPORTUNITY TO  
DO WHAT YOU  
DID--REBUILD  
YOUR WORLD IN  
MY IMAGE.

AND I'LL  
KEEP YOU  
BOTH ALIVE  
LONG ENOUGH  
TO WITNESS  
THIS AND  
DESPAIR.



OR  
NOT!





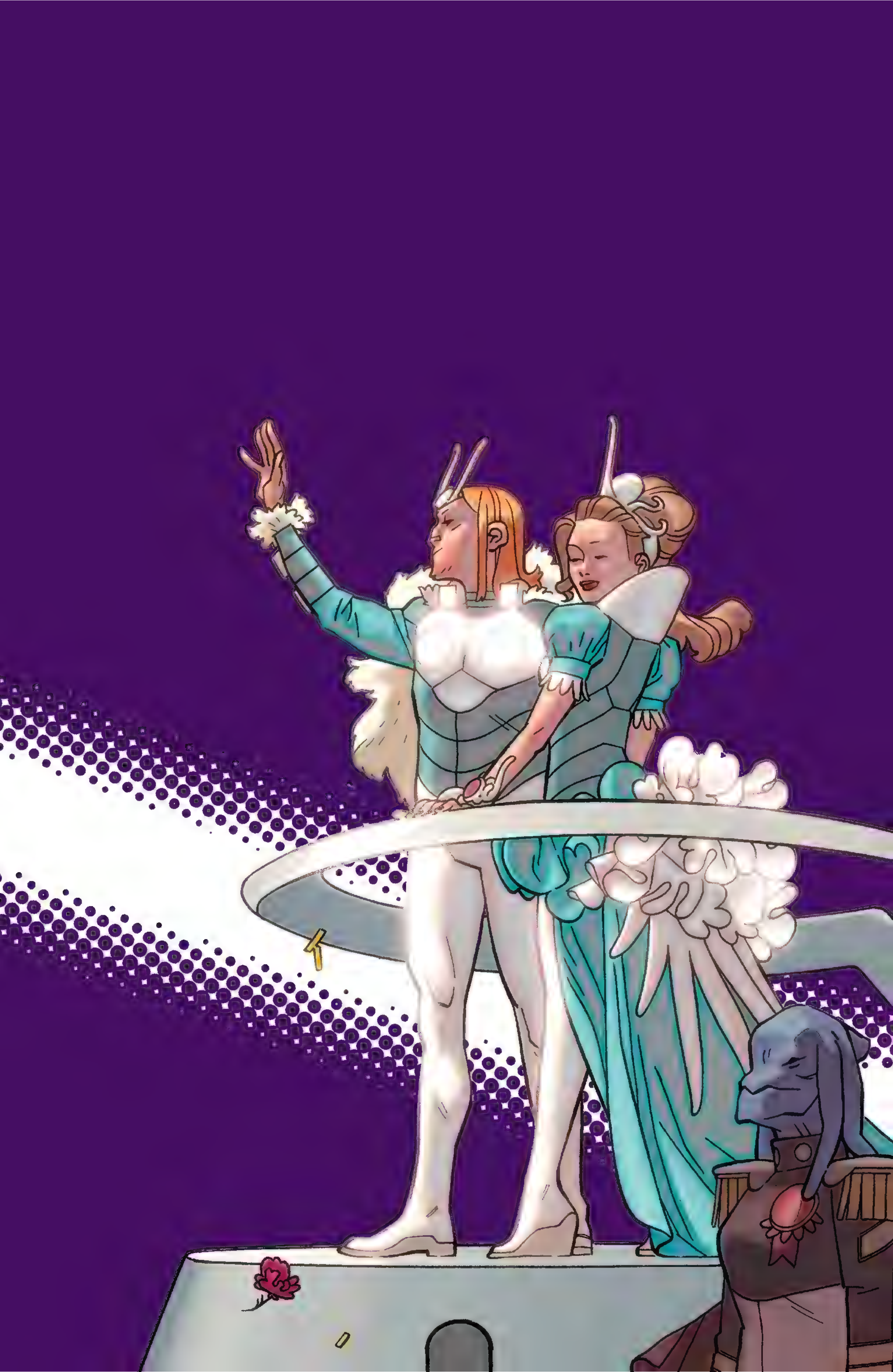
ON YOUR  
FEET,  
SOLDIER.

THE GUARDIANS  
OF THE GLOBE ARE  
BACK IN FULL FORCE,  
AND WE'RE AT YOUR  
COMMAND. YOU KNOW  
THESE BASTARDS  
BETTER THAN ANY  
OF US...

...AND I'M  
WILLING TO BET,  
GIVEN THE RIGHT  
RESOURCES,  
YOU KNOW  
EXACTLY  
HOW TO BEAT  
THEM...

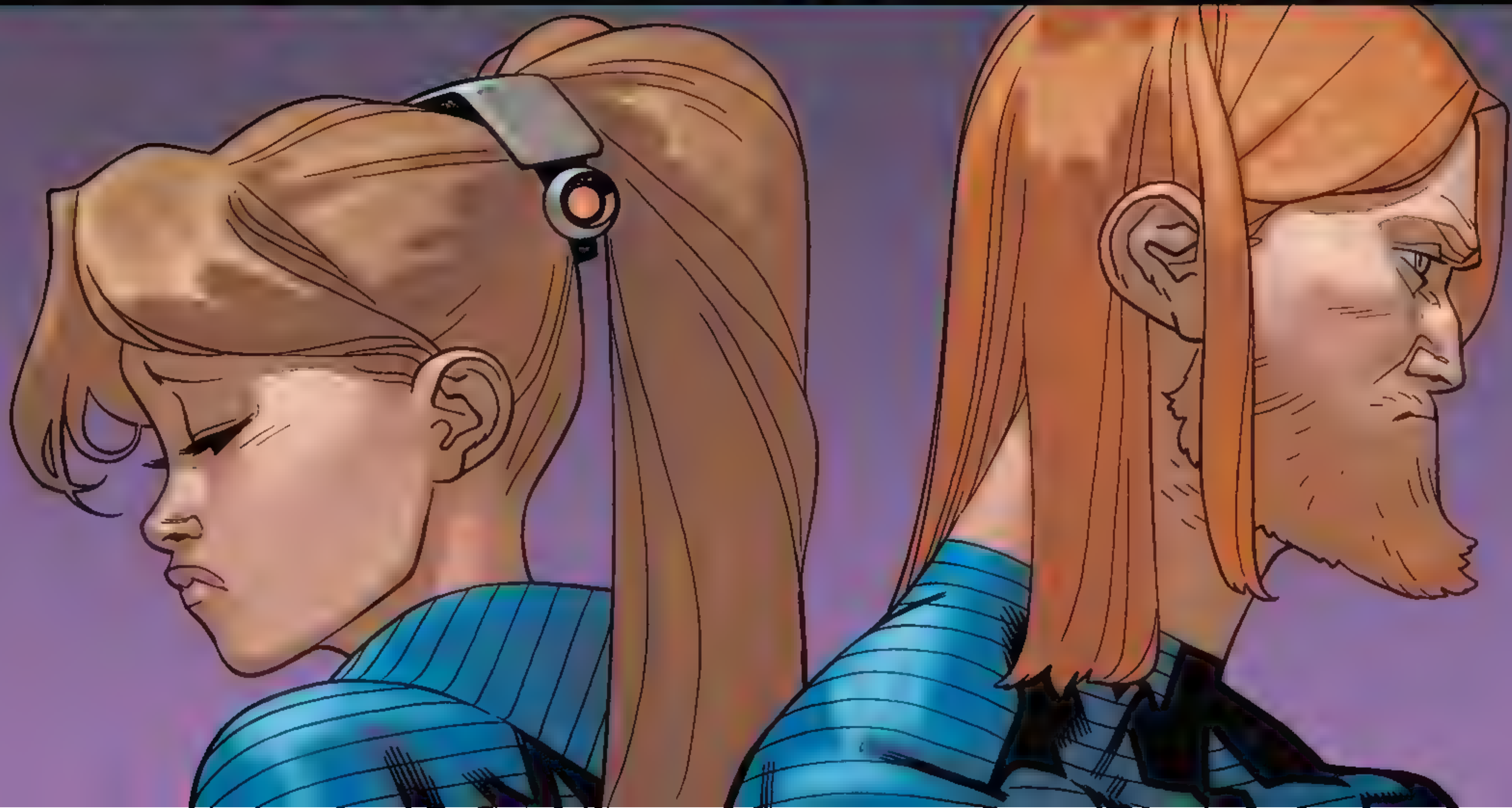
LET'S  
FINISH  
THIS!



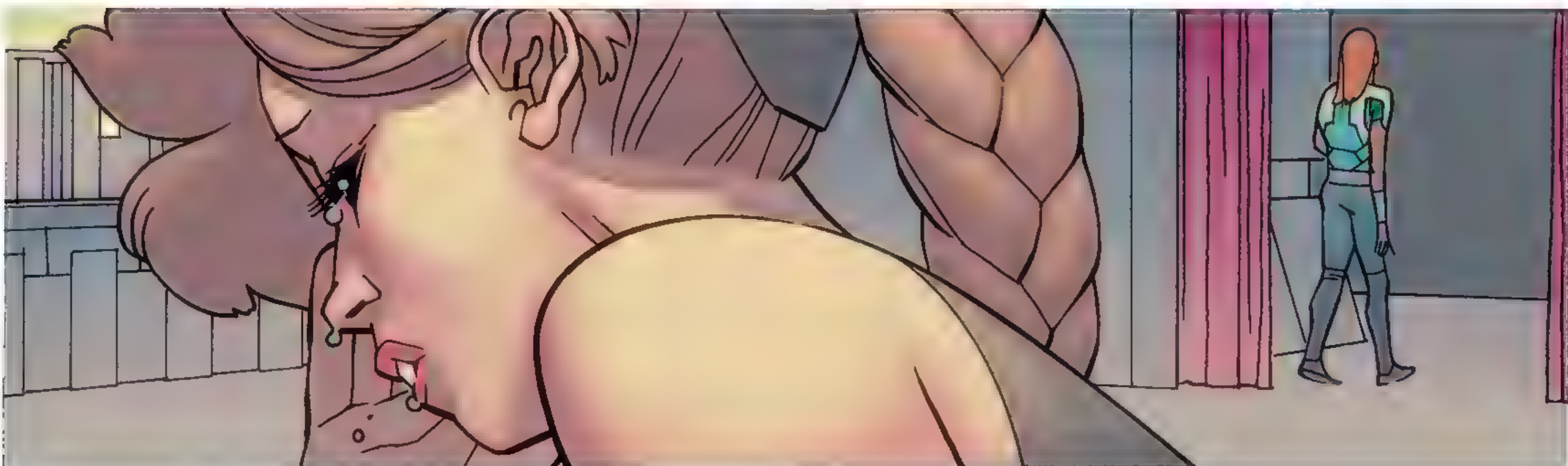
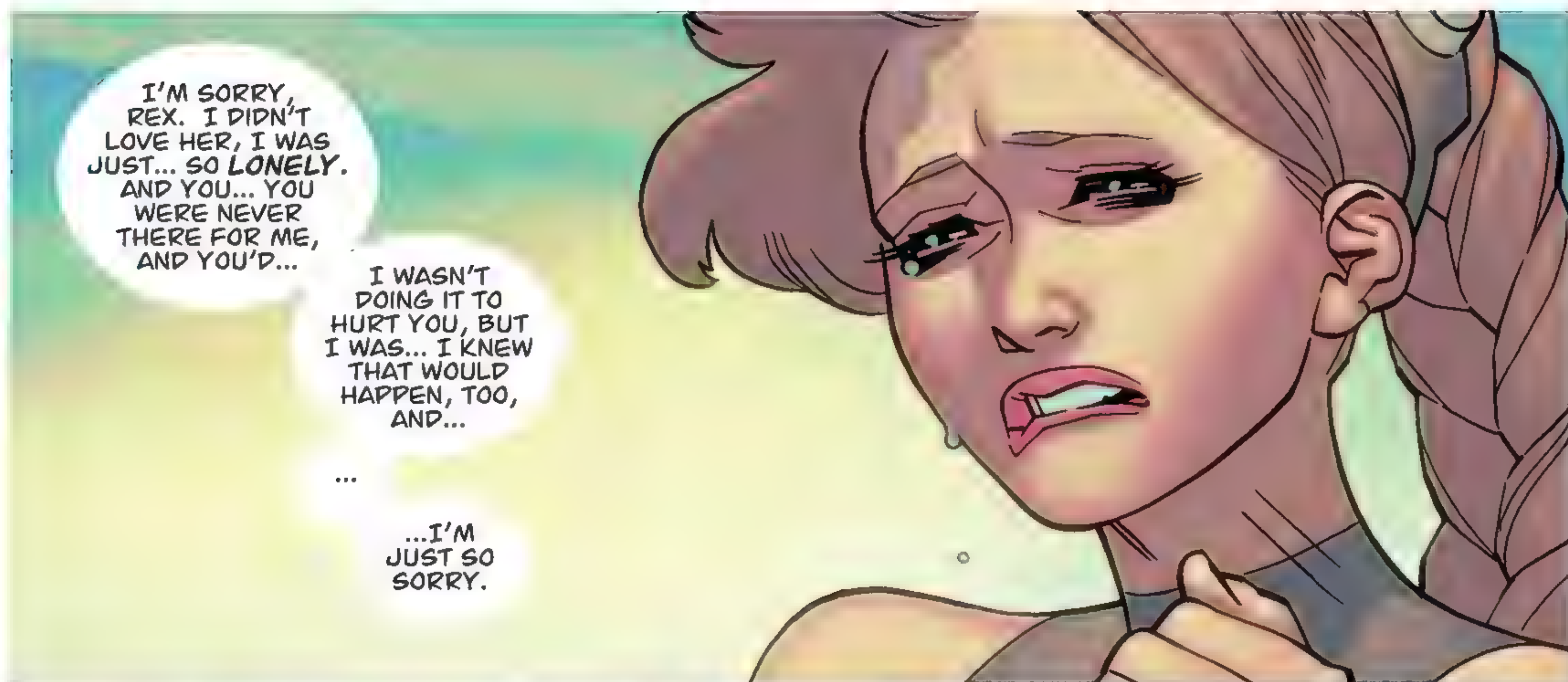




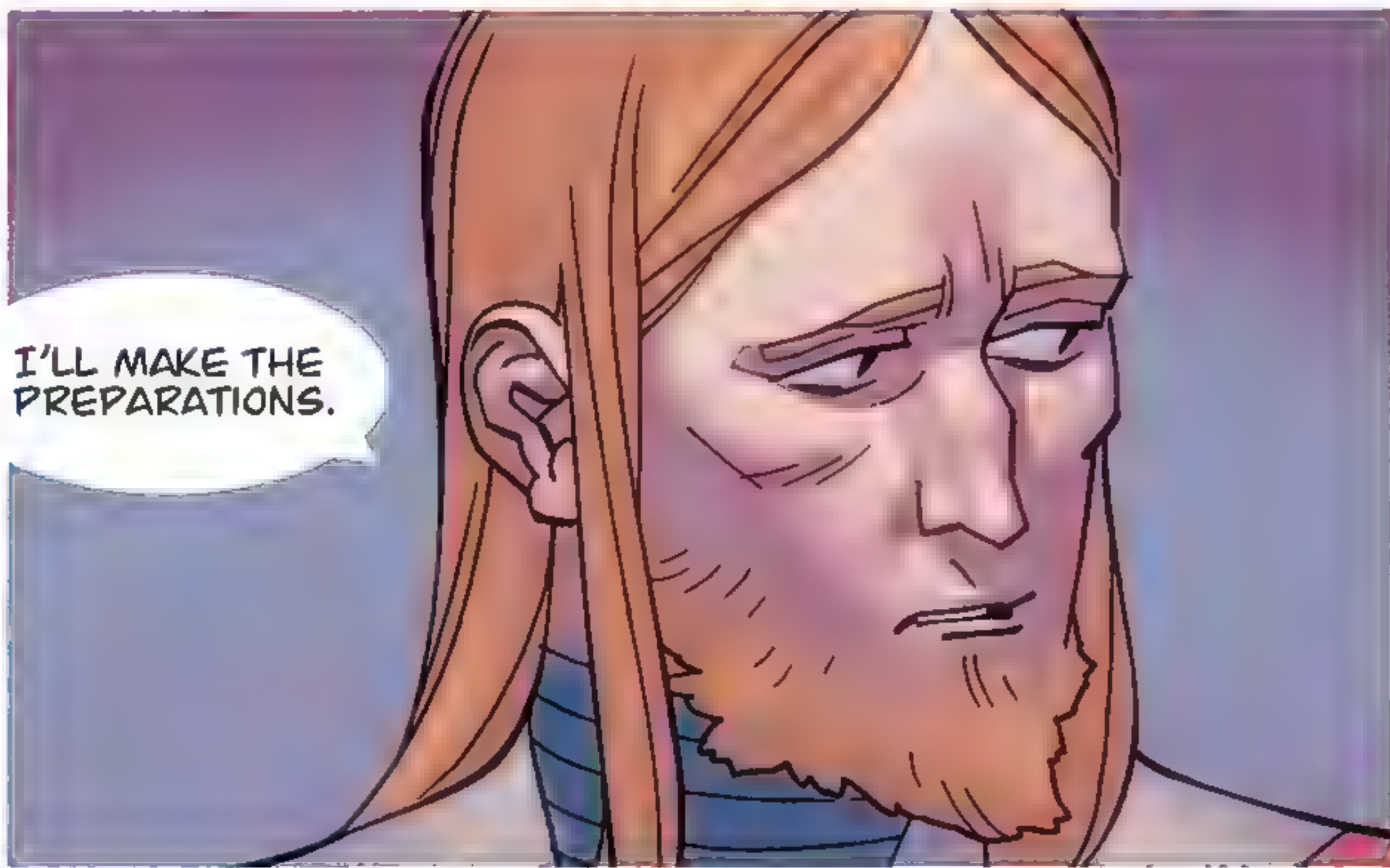
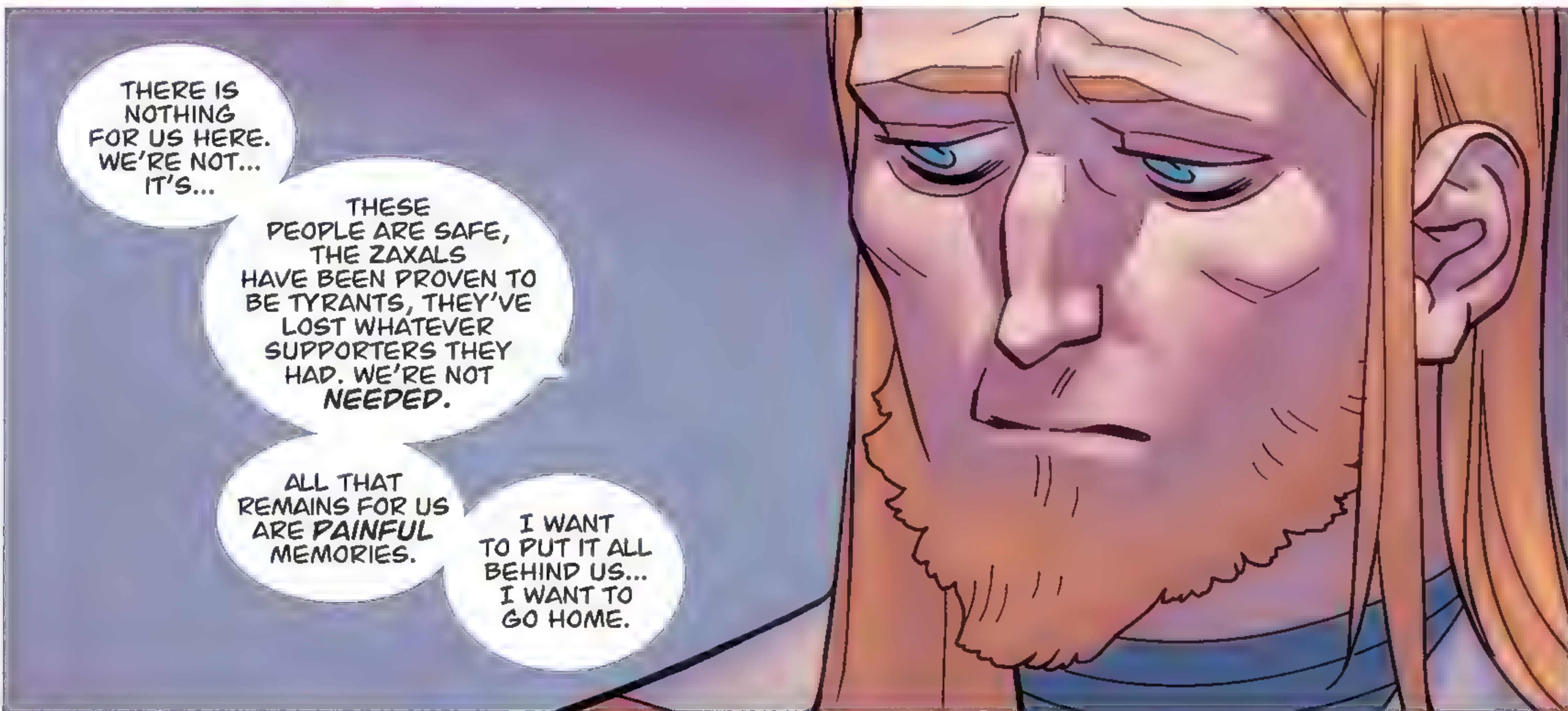
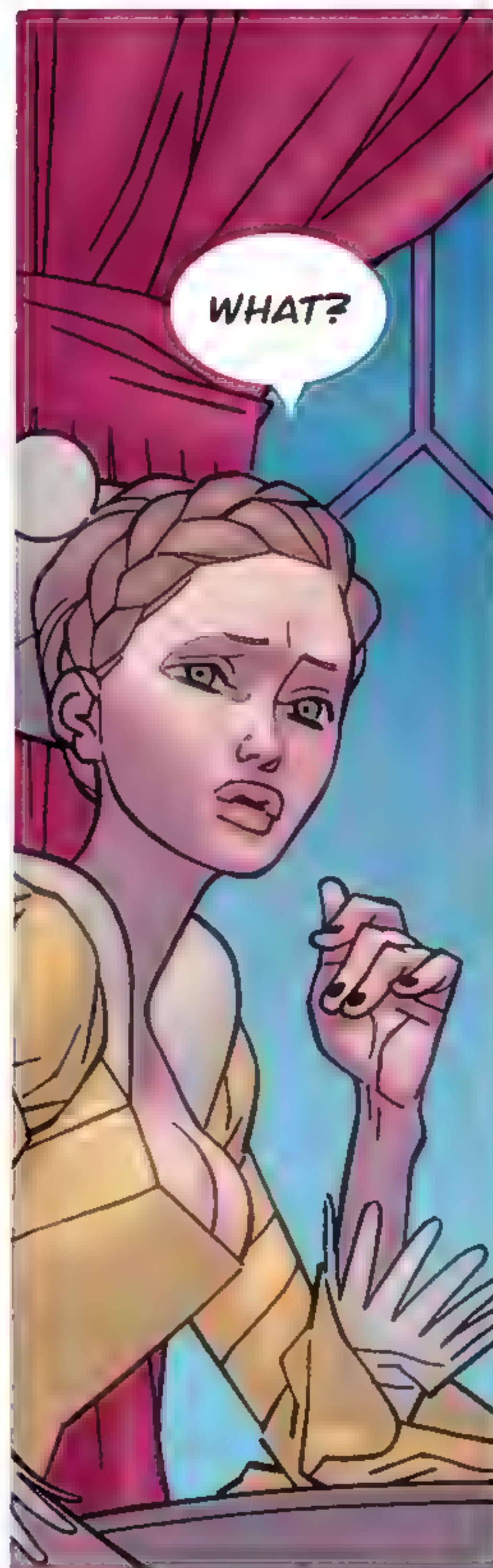
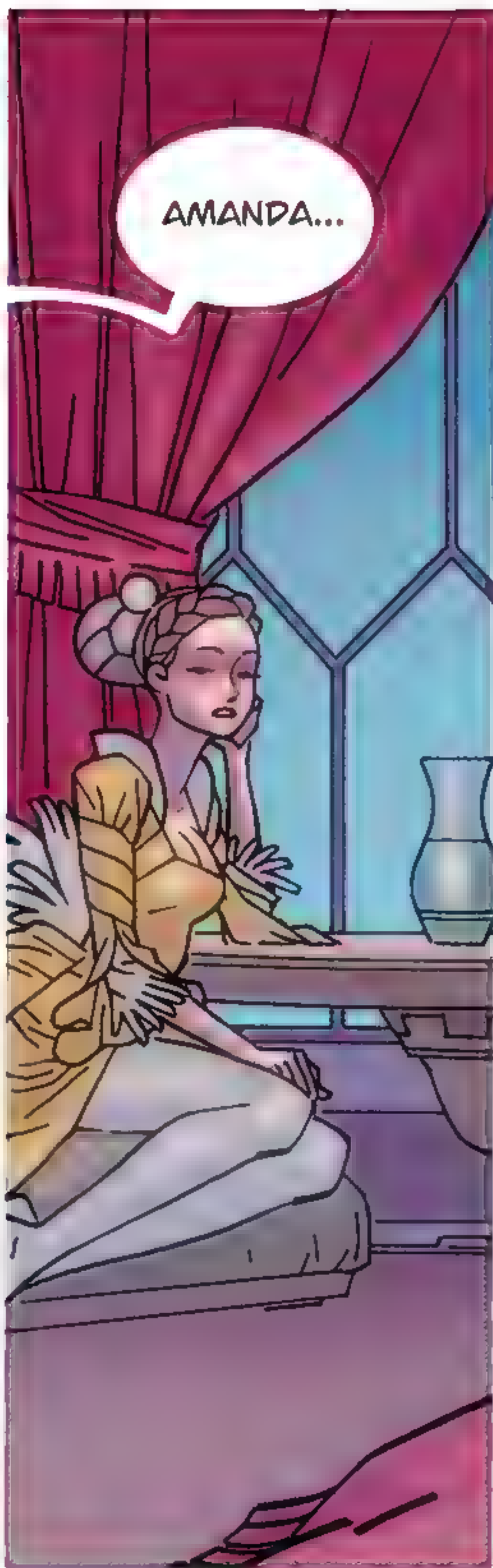
# CHAPTER SIX















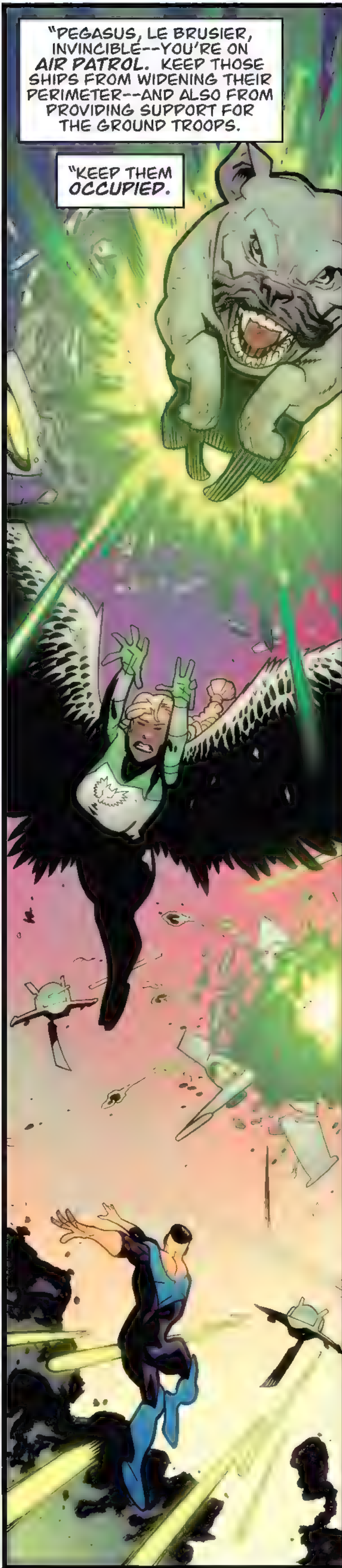




ATTENTION,  
GUARDIANS  
OF THE  
GLOBE!

WE HAVE  
ISOLATED THE  
FLAXAN COMMANDER.  
THE TROOPS ARE CUT  
OFF AND IN DISARRAY!  
NOW IS THE TIME  
TO PUT AN END  
TO THIS.

HERE'S  
WHAT I  
NEED FROM  
ALL OF  
YOU!



"PEGASUS, LE BRUSIER,  
INVINCIBLE---YOU'RE ON  
AIR PATROL. KEEP THOSE  
SHIPS FROM WIDENING THEIR  
PERIMETER---AND ALSO FROM  
PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR  
THE GROUND TROOPS.

"KEEP THEM  
OCCUPIED.

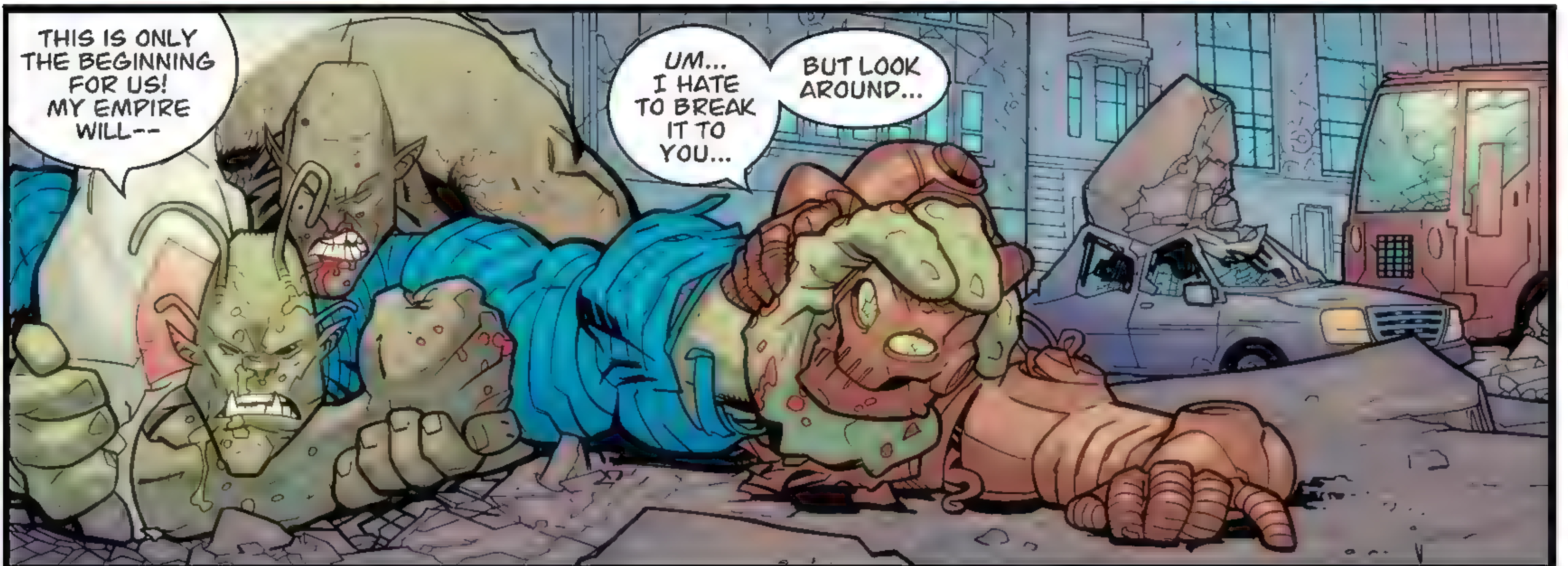
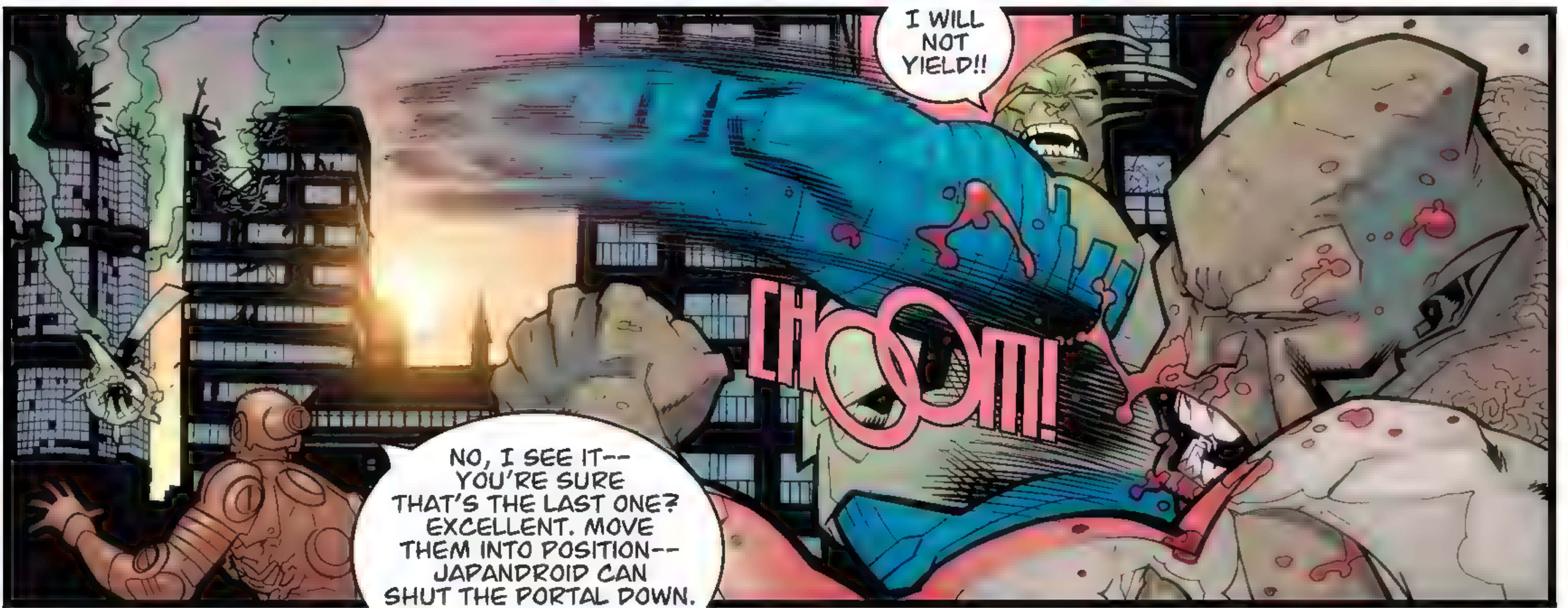


"OUTRUN, KABOOMERANG---  
THERE ARE STILL CIVILIANS  
IN THE STREETS, GATHER  
THEM UP AND GET THEM TO  
THE SAFE ZONES BEFORE  
OUR CASUALTY LIST  
SKYROCKETS.

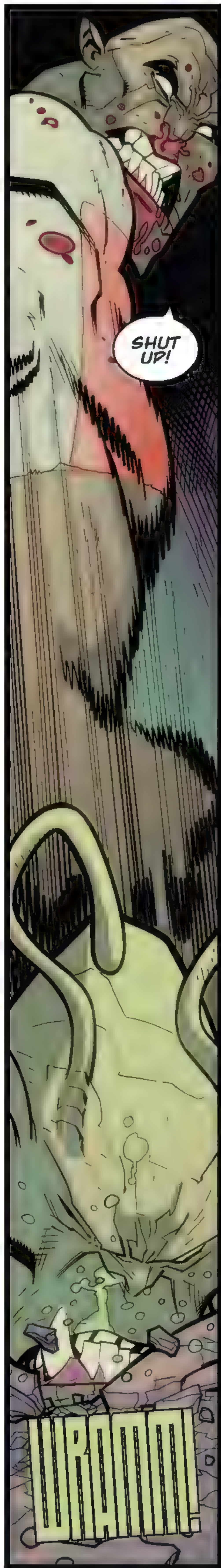
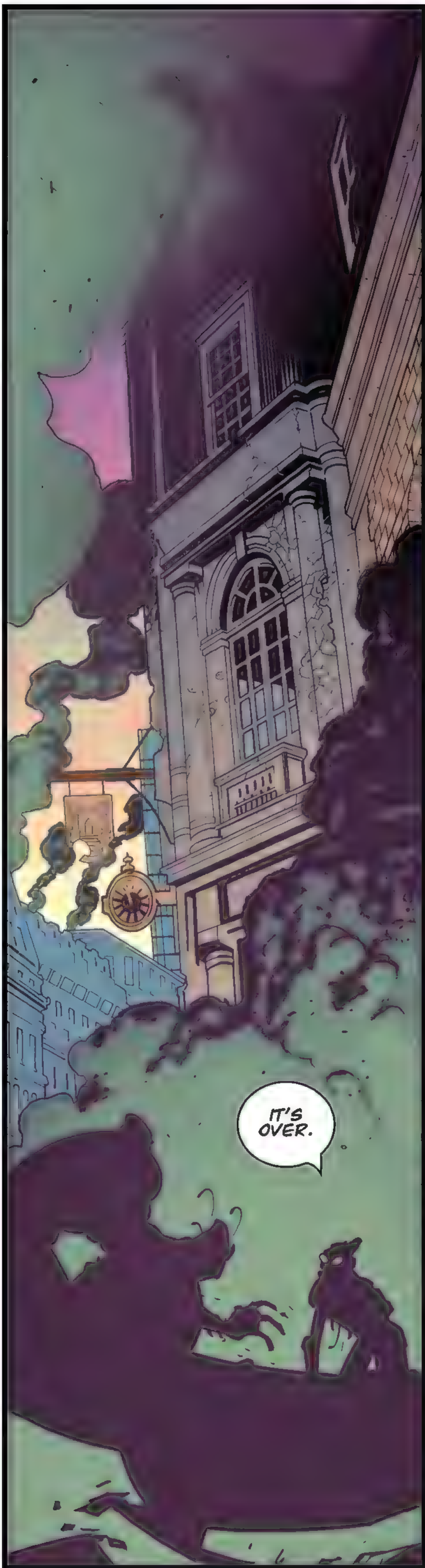




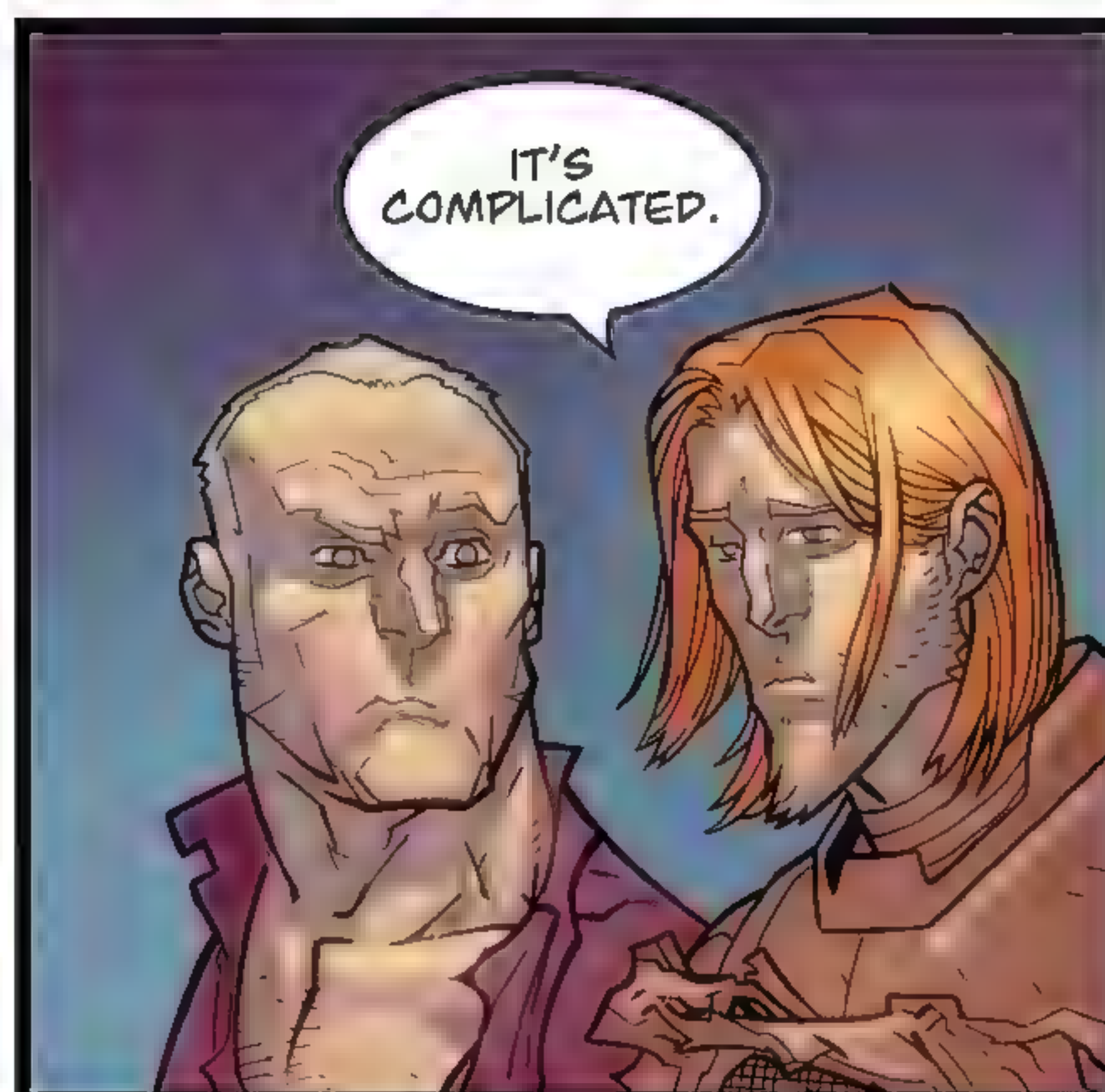
















OH, BOY--  
THAT WAS A  
TOUGH ONE.  
FRACTURE  
ISN'T TOO  
BAD,  
SO DON'T  
WORRY.

SHOULD BE HEALED IN A  
WEEK OR SO, AND IT GIVES  
US A GOOD REASON TO  
AVOID MY PARENTS! IT'D  
BE A PRETTY TOUGH SELL  
THAT I BROKE MY ARM  
WHILE SETTING UP  
FOR A GALLERY  
SHOW--



ZANDALE, HONEY--  
YOU'RE RAMBLING  
NONSENSE--HON',  
PLEASE--WHAT  
ARE YOU TALKING  
ABOUT?!



OH, GOD...  
THEY'RE IN  
THE KITCHEN  
AREN'T  
THEY?

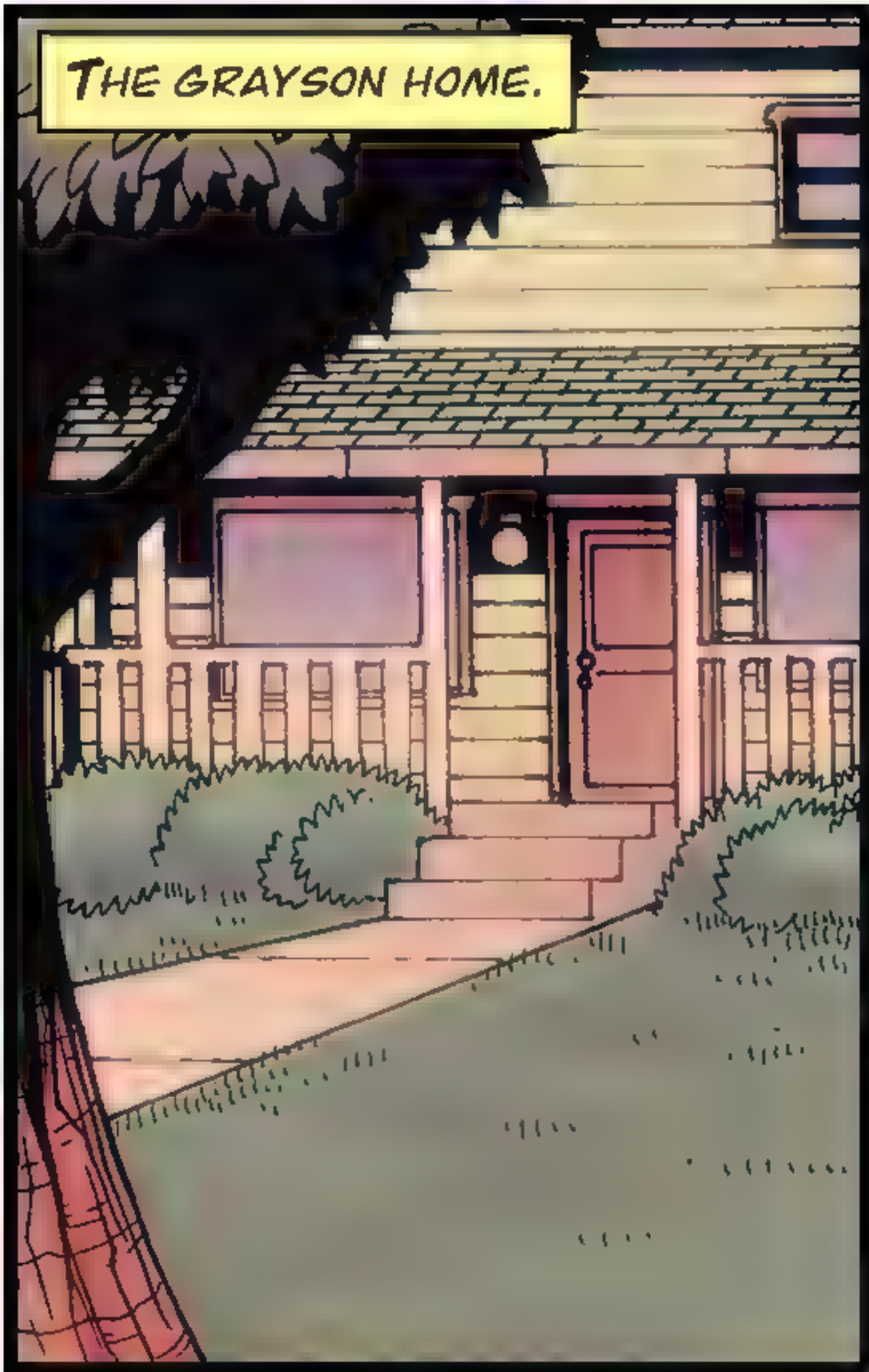


I DON'T  
UNDERSTAND.  
YOUR BROTHER  
WAS FIGHTING  
THOSE ALIENS...  
**NOT YOU.** HOW  
COULD YOU  
BREAK  
YOUR--

OH,  
BOY...







LONDON WAS  
NEARLY LEVELED  
IN THE BATTLE!  
WHERE THE HELL  
WERE YOU  
GUYS?!



WELL,  
THE  
THING  
IS...

TECH JACKET MET THIS ALIEN, AND SHE  
INVITED US TO HER MOTHERSHIP. WE  
WEREN'T THAT FAR AWAY BUT WE WERE  
OUT OF COMMUNICATION...

EVERYTHING  
TURNED OUT OKAY,  
RIGHT? I MEAN, I  
CERTAINLY HOPE  
NOTHING TOO  
HORRIBLE  
HAPPENED.

BUT--  
AND I DON'T  
MEAN TO BE  
ARGUMENTATIVE---  
IT'S JUST, I'M NOT  
EXACTLY ON  
CALL HERE,  
YOU KNOW...





SORRY TO SNAP AT YOU LIKE THAT... IT'S JUST HARD, NOT BEING ABLE TO HELP.

I JUST... FEEL SO HELPLESS.



I GET IT, MAN. I CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT YOU MUST BE GOING THROUGH.

IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU UP AND ABOUT, THOUGH-- YOUR ARM LOOKED PRETTY NASTY LAST TIME I SAW YOU.



YEAH... IT'S HEALING OKAY. I HONESTLY DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW LONG THESE THINGS TAKE.

THIS IS A WHOLE NEW WORLD FOR ME. AND I--



MARK, WE CAME HERE TO SAY GOODBYE.

WE STAYED TO MAKE SURE YOU WERE SAFE AND NOT IN THE HANDS OF THE VILTRUMITES. NOW THAT WE'RE THROUGH WITH THAT, WE NEED TO RETURN TO TALESRIA.

I'M SURE THERE ARE A GREAT MANY MATTERS THAT REQUIRE MY ATTENTION.



OH... OKAY, THEN.

I GUESS I'LL SEE YOU LATER...



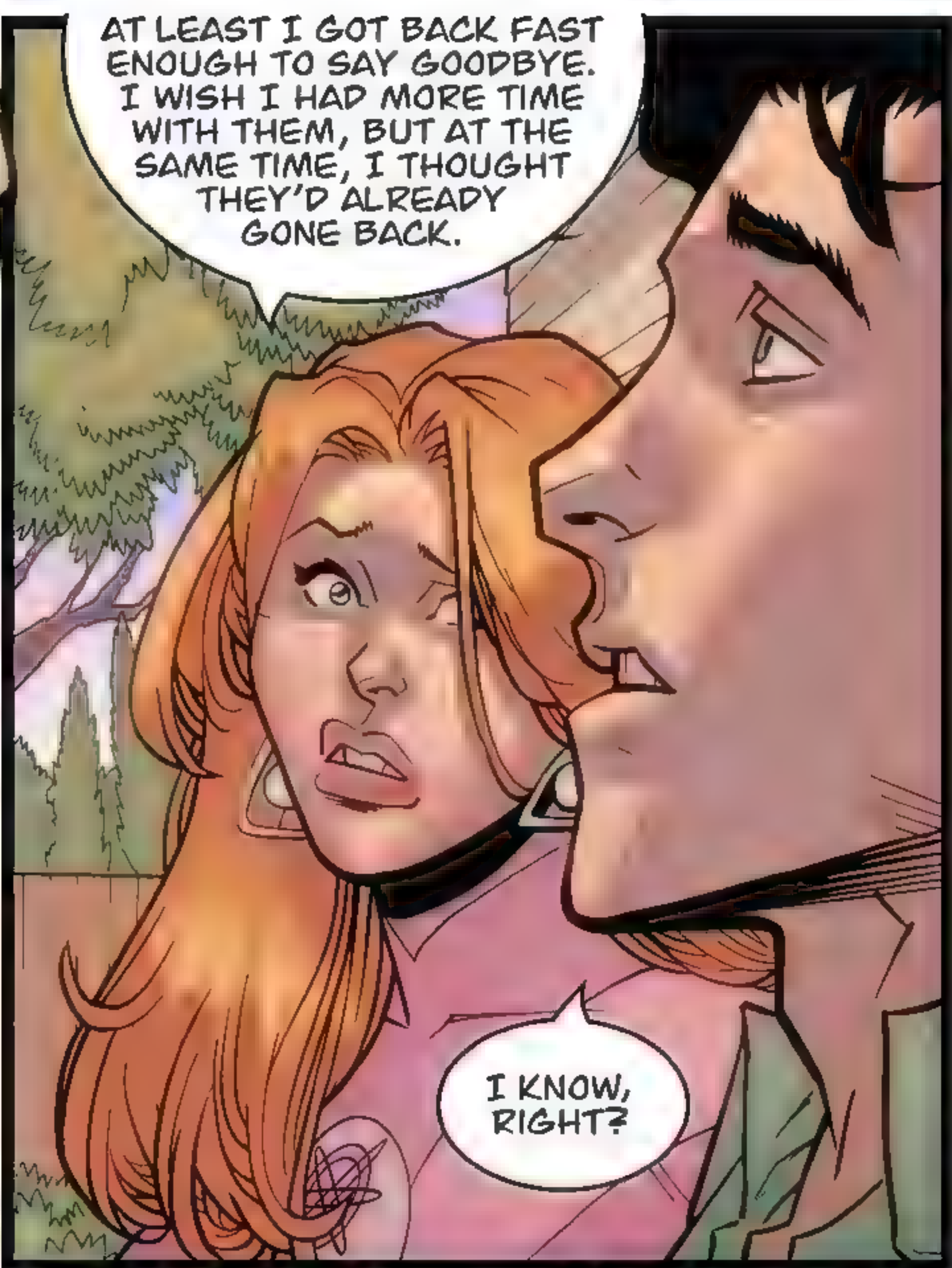
ALLEN? COULD YOU GIVE US A MOMENT?

I NEED TO TALK TO MARK.



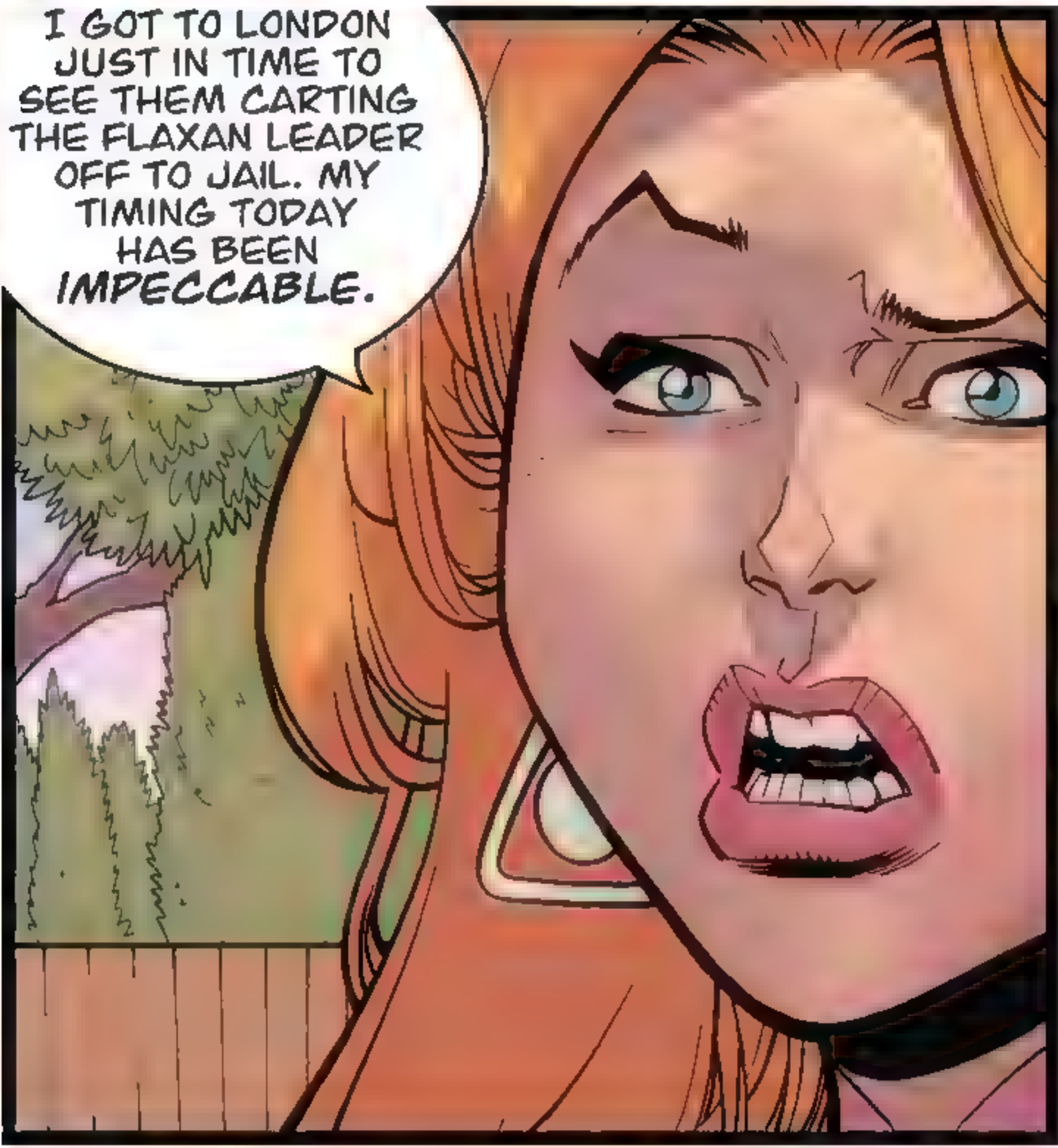




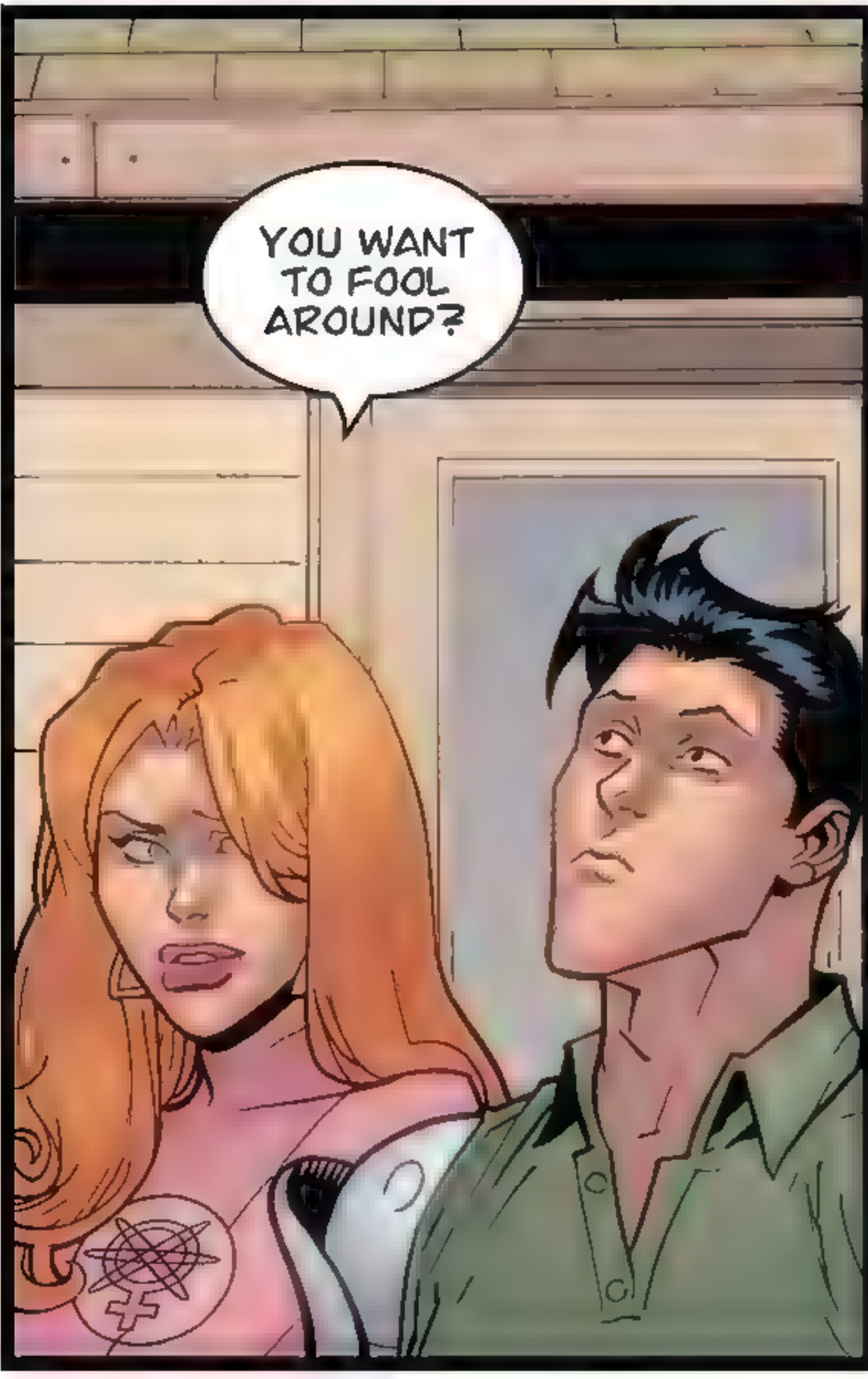
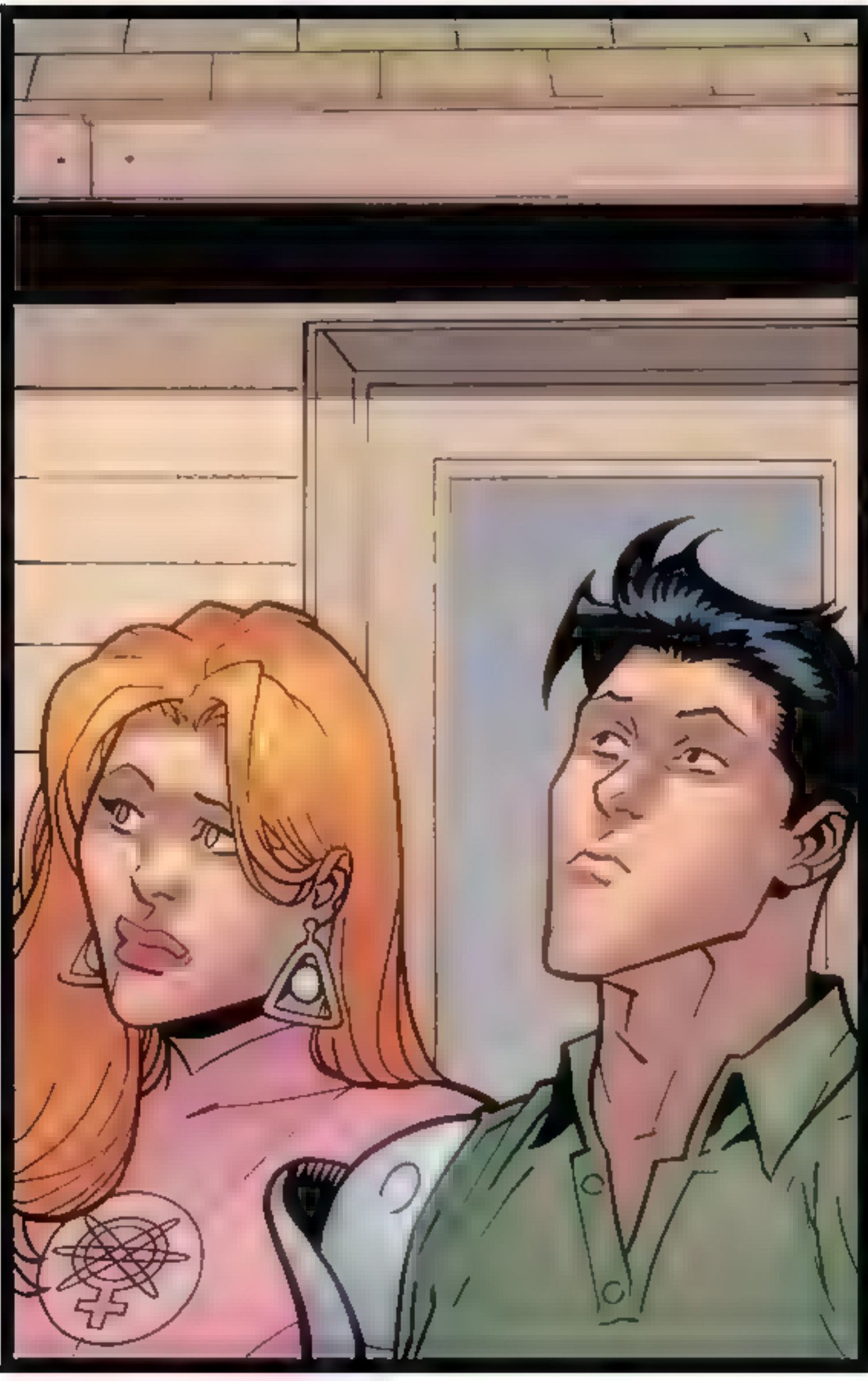


AT LEAST I GOT BACK FAST ENOUGH TO SAY GOODBYE. I WISH I HAD MORE TIME WITH THEM, BUT AT THE SAME TIME, I THOUGHT THEY'D ALREADY GONE BACK.

I KNOW, RIGHT?



I GOT TO LONDON JUST IN TIME TO SEE THEM CARTING THE FLAXAN LEADER OFF TO JAIL. MY TIMING TODAY HAS BEEN IMPECCABLE.



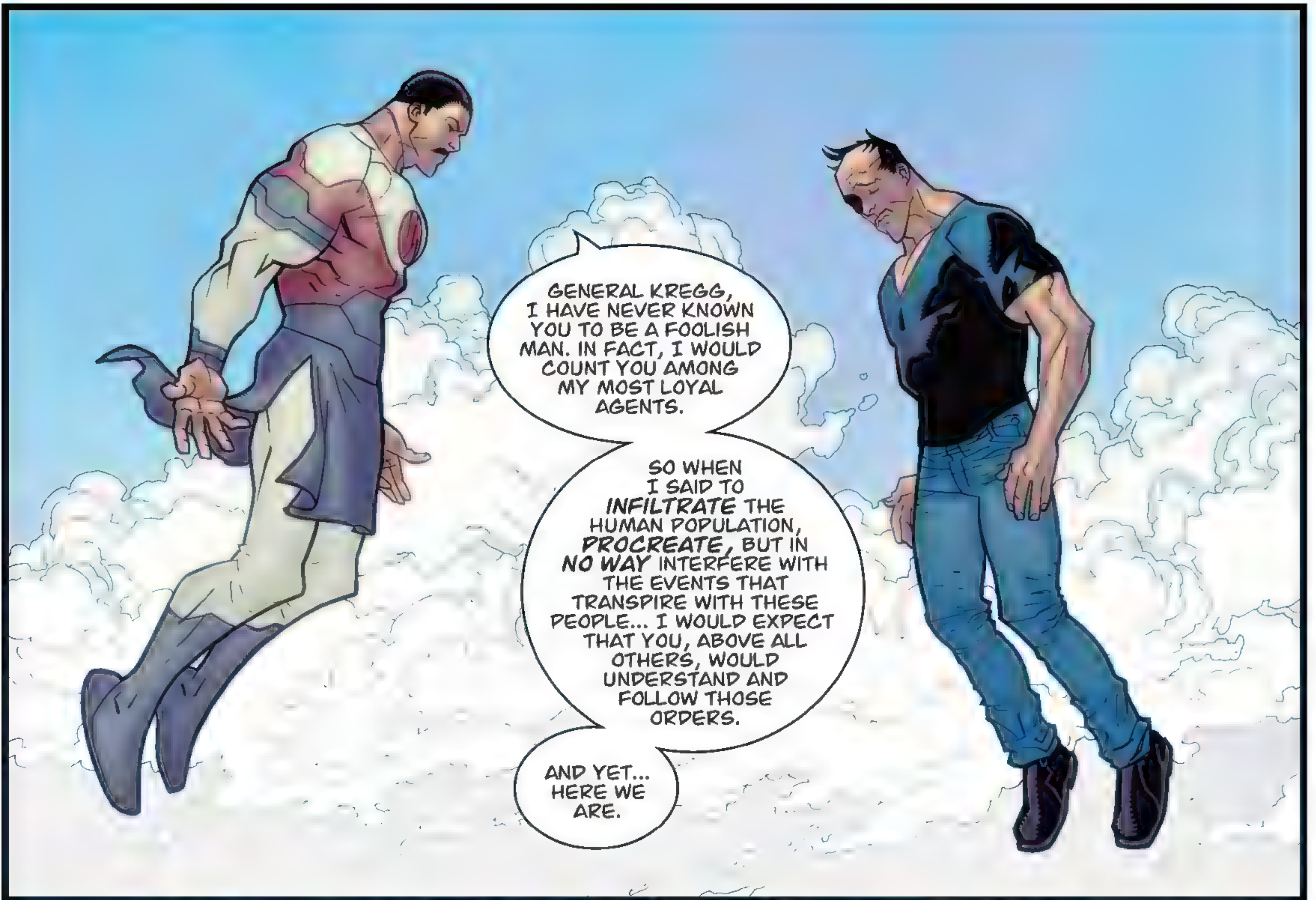
YOU WANT TO FOOL AROUND?



IT REALLY WON'T BE THE SAME WITHOUT MY POWERS...

...BUT YES.





GENERAL KREGG,  
I HAVE NEVER KNOWN  
YOU TO BE A FOOLISH  
MAN. IN FACT, I WOULD  
COUNT YOU AMONG  
MY MOST LOYAL  
AGENTS.

SO WHEN  
I SAID TO  
**INFILTRATE** THE  
HUMAN POPULATION,  
**PROCREATE**, BUT IN  
**NO WAY** INTERFERE WITH  
THE EVENTS THAT  
TRANSPIRE WITH THESE  
PEOPLE... I WOULD EXPECT  
THAT YOU, ABOVE ALL  
OTHERS, WOULD  
UNDERSTAND AND  
FOLLOW THOSE  
ORDERS.

AND YET...  
HERE WE  
ARE.



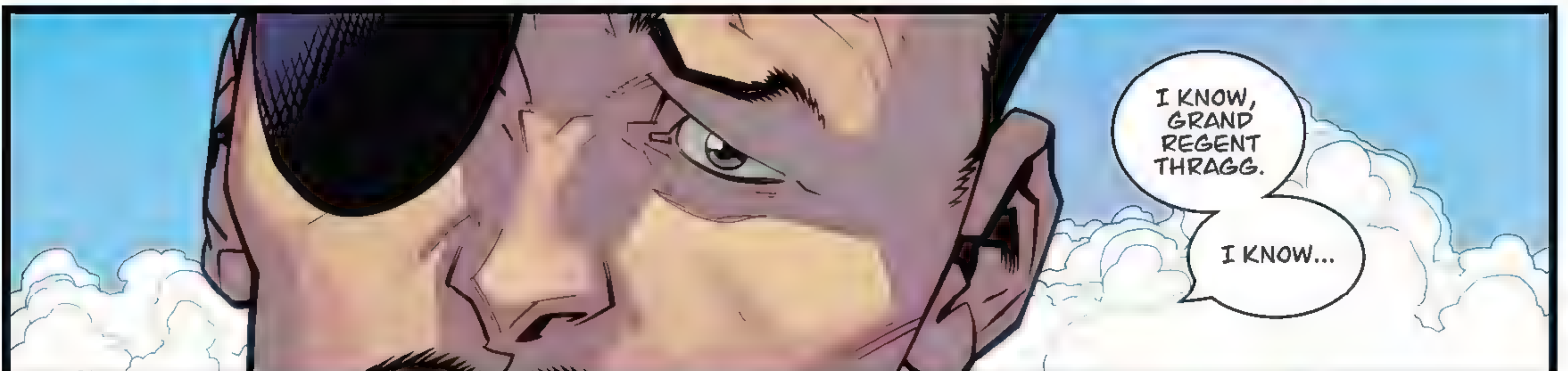
I AM VERY SORRY,  
SIR. IT WAS NOT  
MY INTENTION  
TO DISOBEY  
YOU.

I COULDN'T  
STAND BY AND  
ALLOW THESE PEOPLE  
TO BE HARMED.  
THERE IS A HUMAN  
WOMAN IN LONDON  
WHO CARRIES  
MY CHILD.



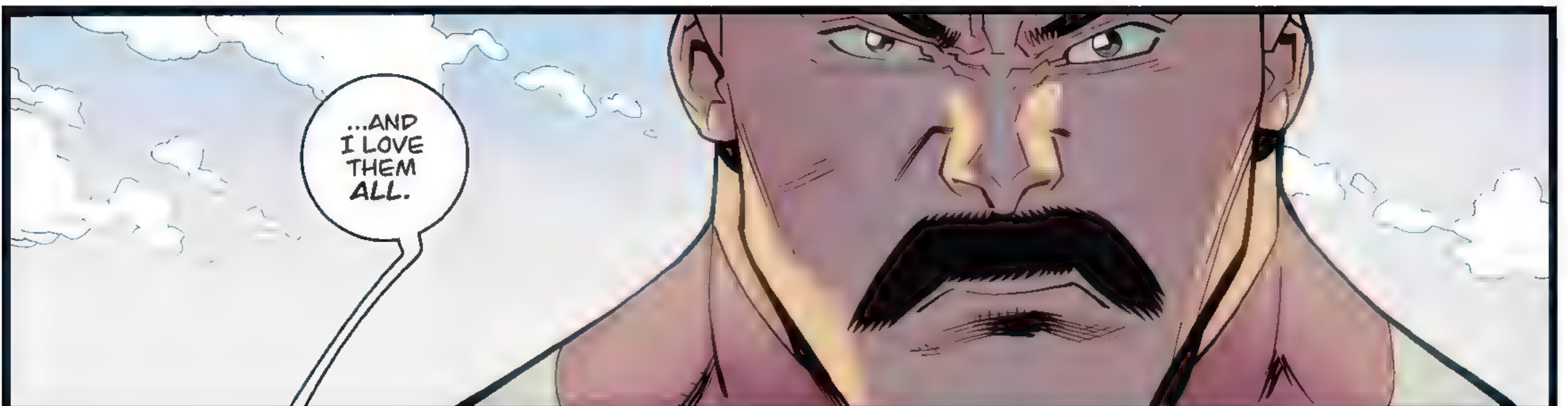
SO? THAT  
WOMAN IS  
OF LIMITED  
IMPORTANCE.

I HAVE  
REVIEWED YOUR  
LOGS. YOU HAVE  
NEARLY A **DOZEN**  
HUMAN WOMEN SPREAD  
ALL OVER THE GLOBE  
WHO ARE CURRENTLY  
IMPREGNATED  
WITH YOUR  
OFFSPRING.



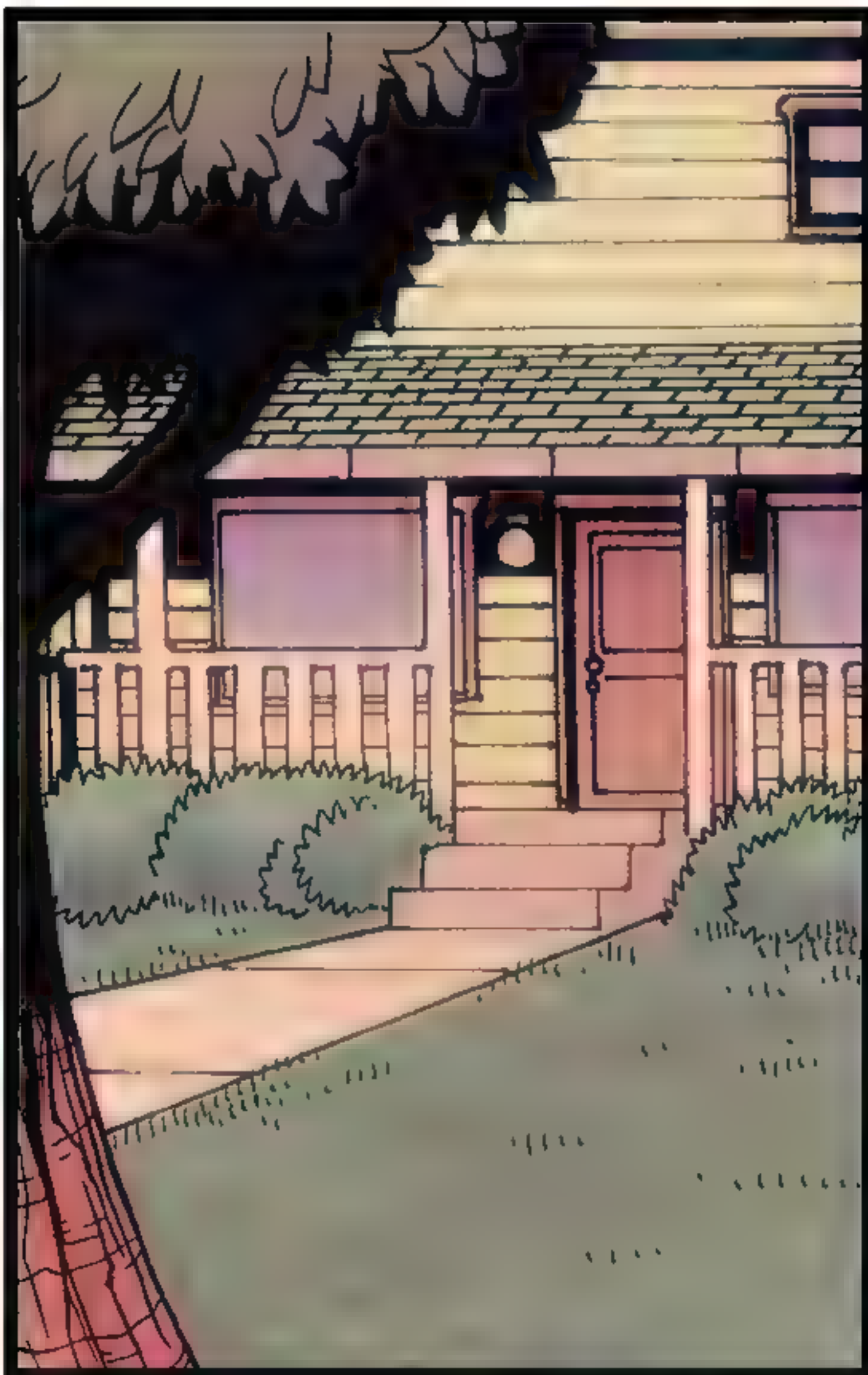
I KNOW,  
GRAND  
REGENT  
THRAGG.

I KNOW...



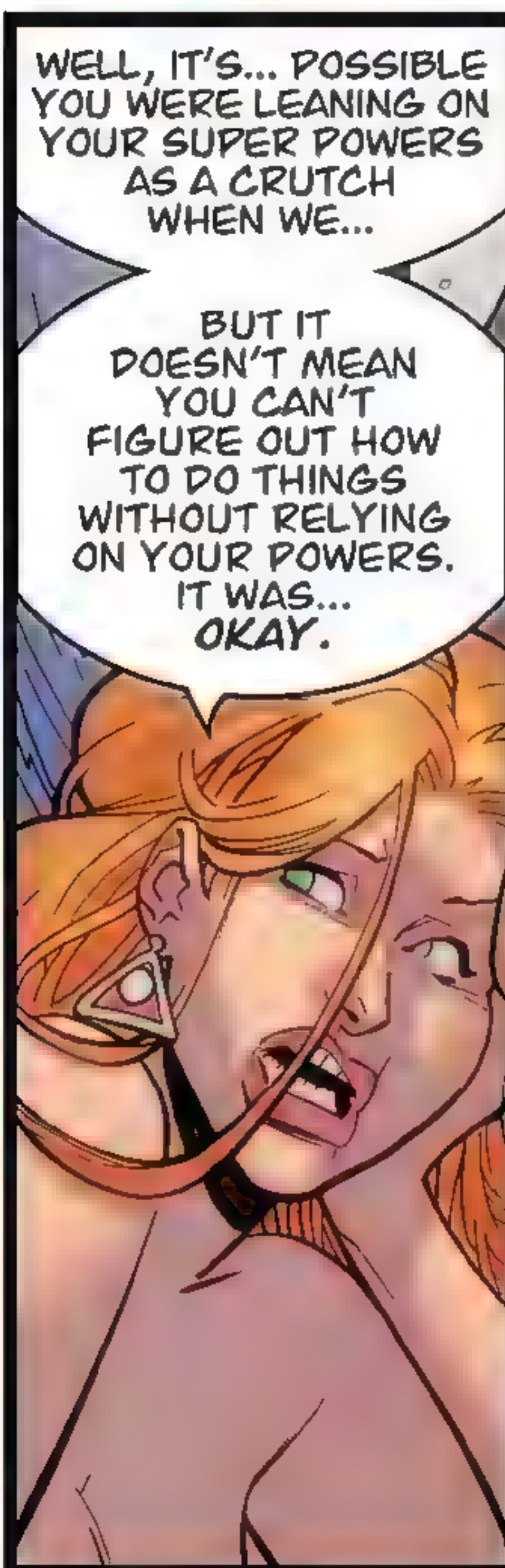
...AND  
I LOVE  
THEM  
ALL.





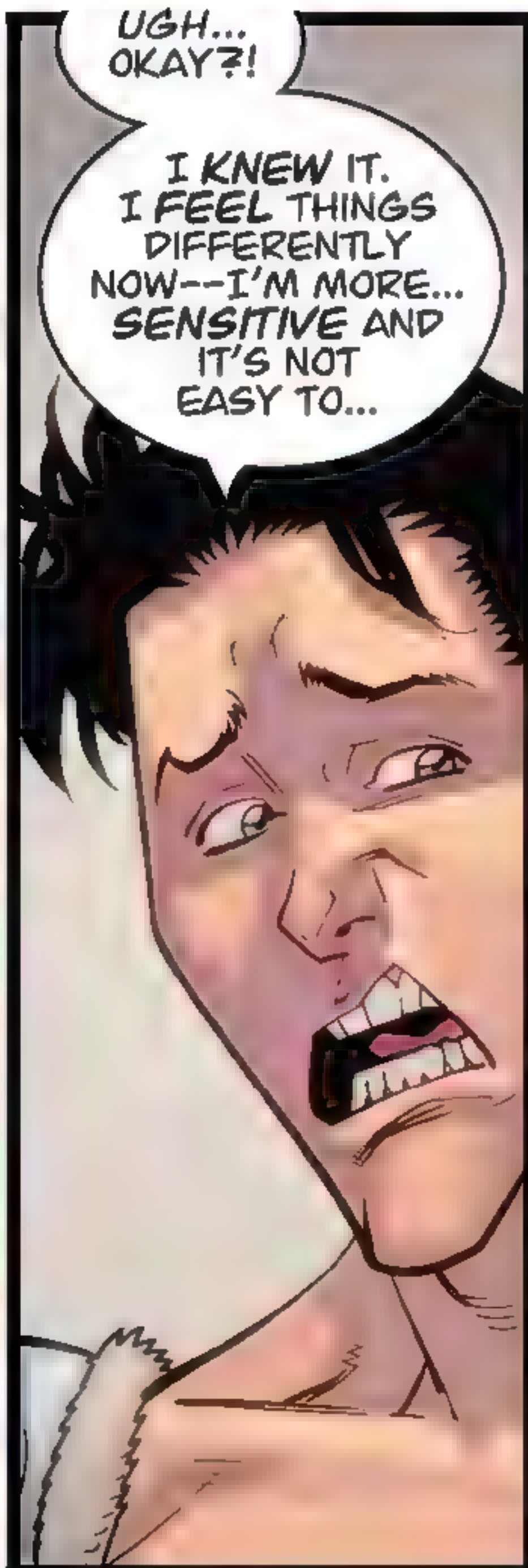
MARK,  
WHAT  
IS IT?

WAS THAT  
OKAY FOR YOU?  
I MEAN, REALLY.  
I DON'T WANT  
YOU TO  
SUGARCOAT  
IT.



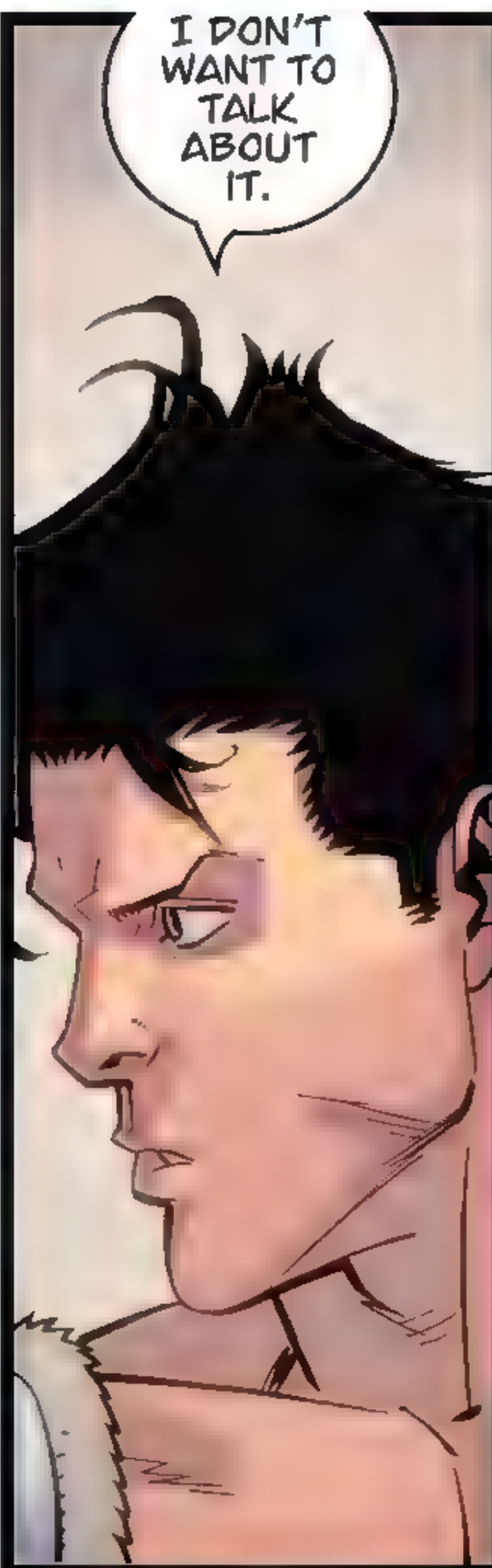
WELL, IT'S... POSSIBLE  
YOU WERE LEANING ON  
YOUR SUPER POWERS  
AS A CRUTCH  
WHEN WE...

BUT IT  
DOESN'T MEAN  
YOU CAN'T  
FIGURE OUT HOW  
TO DO THINGS  
WITHOUT RELYING  
ON YOUR POWERS.  
IT WAS...  
OKAY.

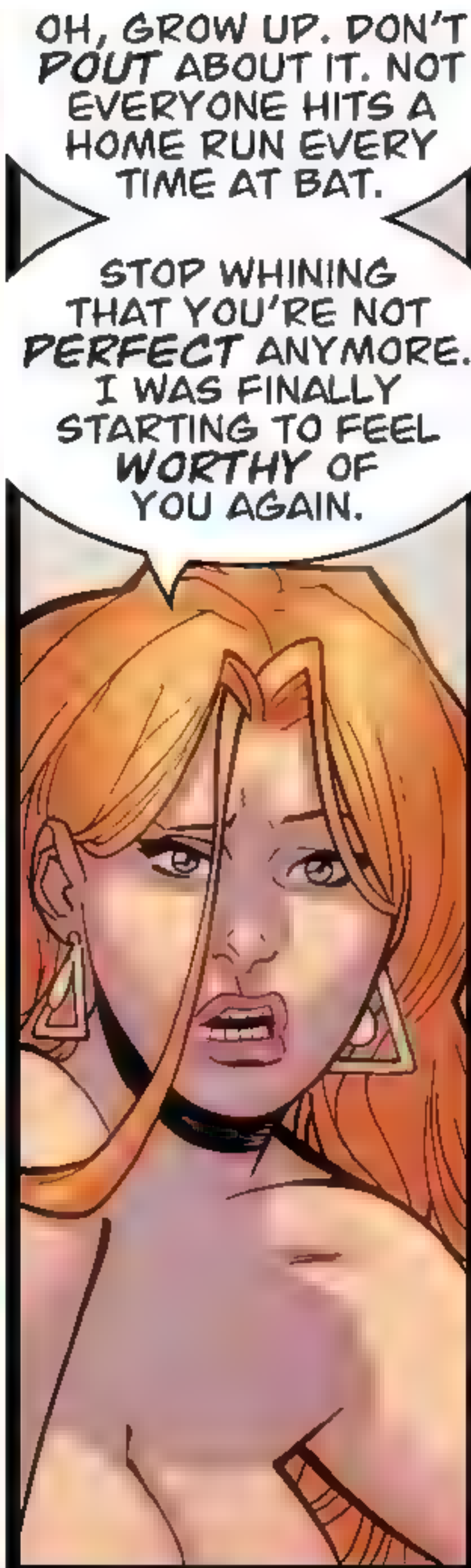


UGH...  
OKAY?!

I KNEW IT.  
I FEEL THINGS  
DIFFERENTLY  
NOW--I'M MORE...  
**SENSITIVE** AND  
IT'S NOT  
EASY TO...

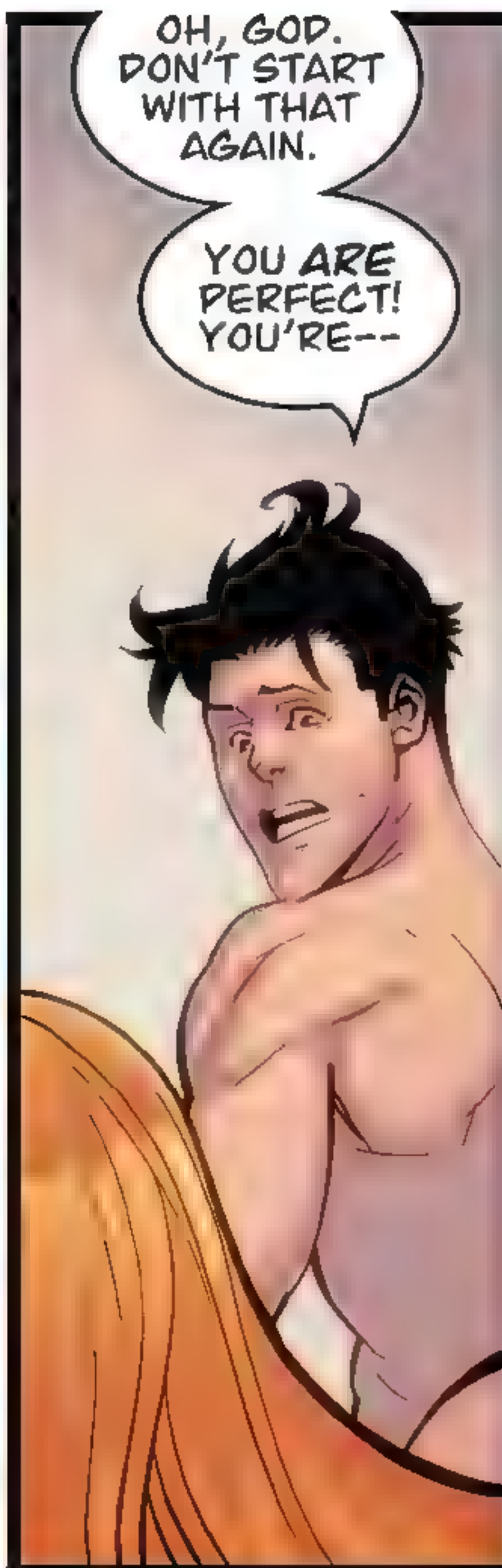


I DON'T  
WANT TO  
TALK  
ABOUT  
IT.



OH, GROW UP. DON'T  
**POUT** ABOUT IT. NOT  
EVERYONE HITS A  
HOME RUN EVERY  
TIME AT BAT.

STOP WHINING  
THAT YOU'RE NOT  
**PERFECT** ANYMORE.  
I WAS FINALLY  
STARTING TO FEEL  
**WORTHY** OF  
YOU AGAIN.



OH, GOD.  
DON'T START  
WITH THAT  
AGAIN.

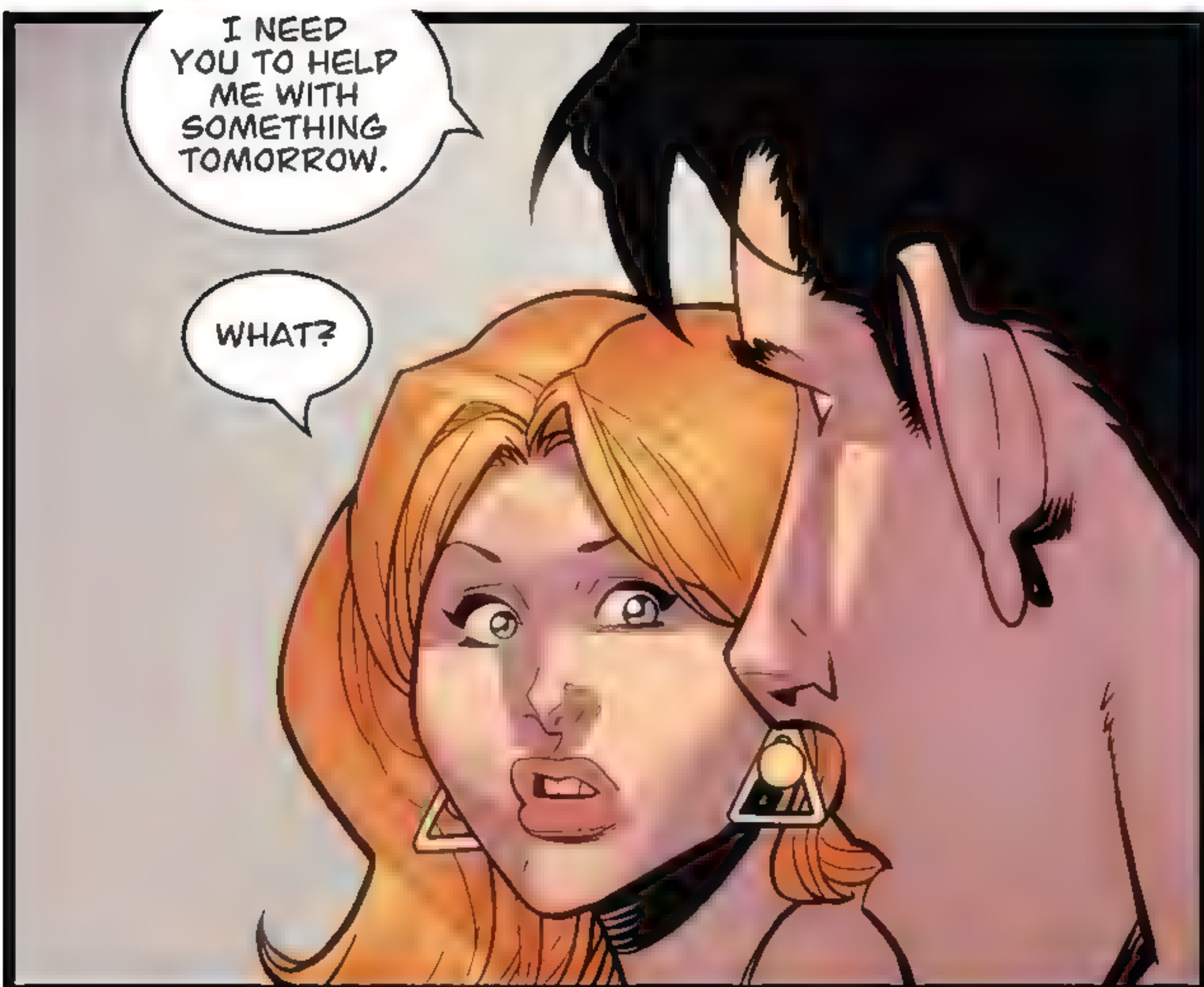
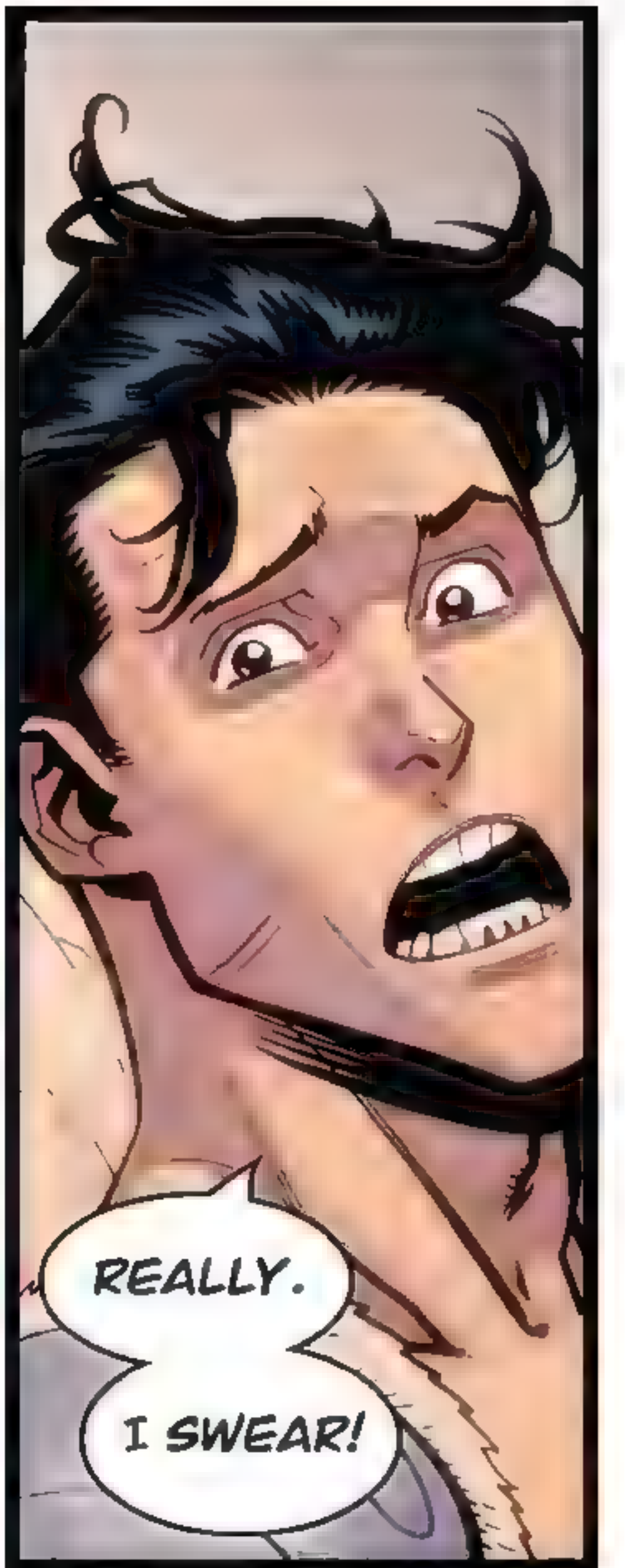
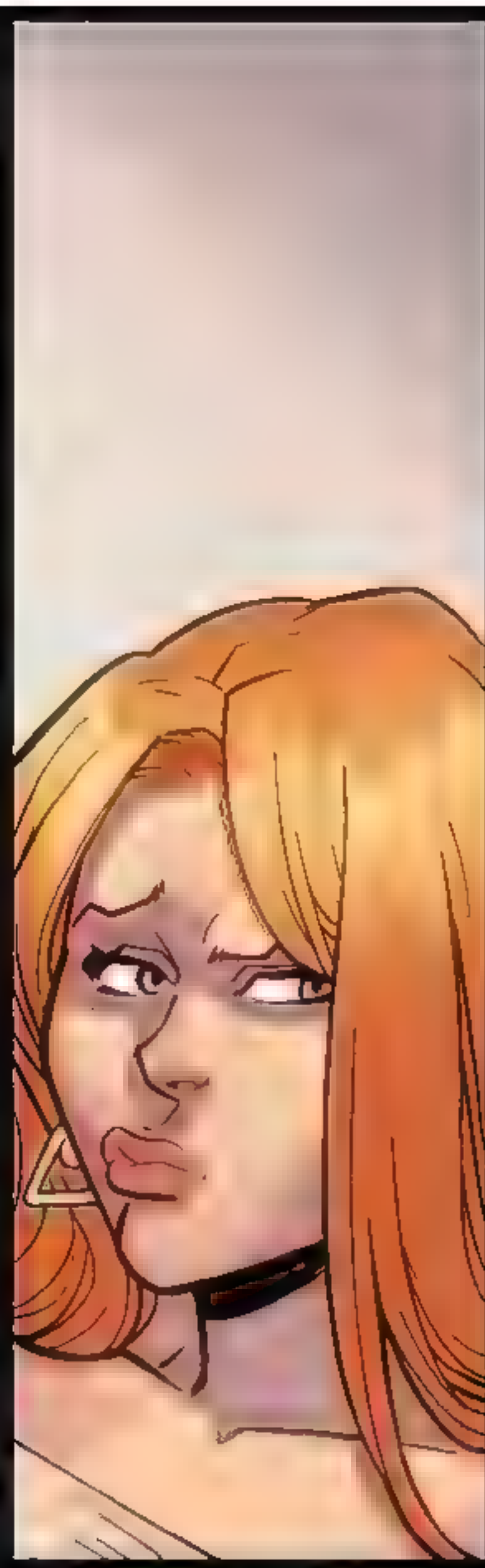
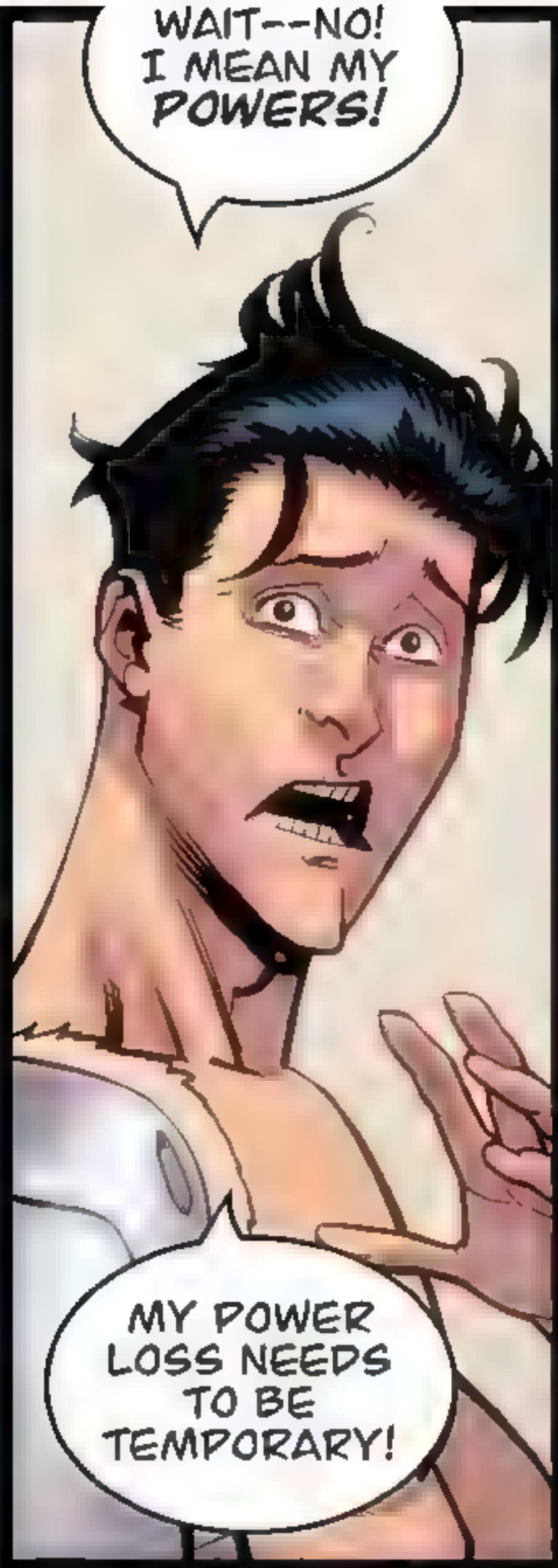
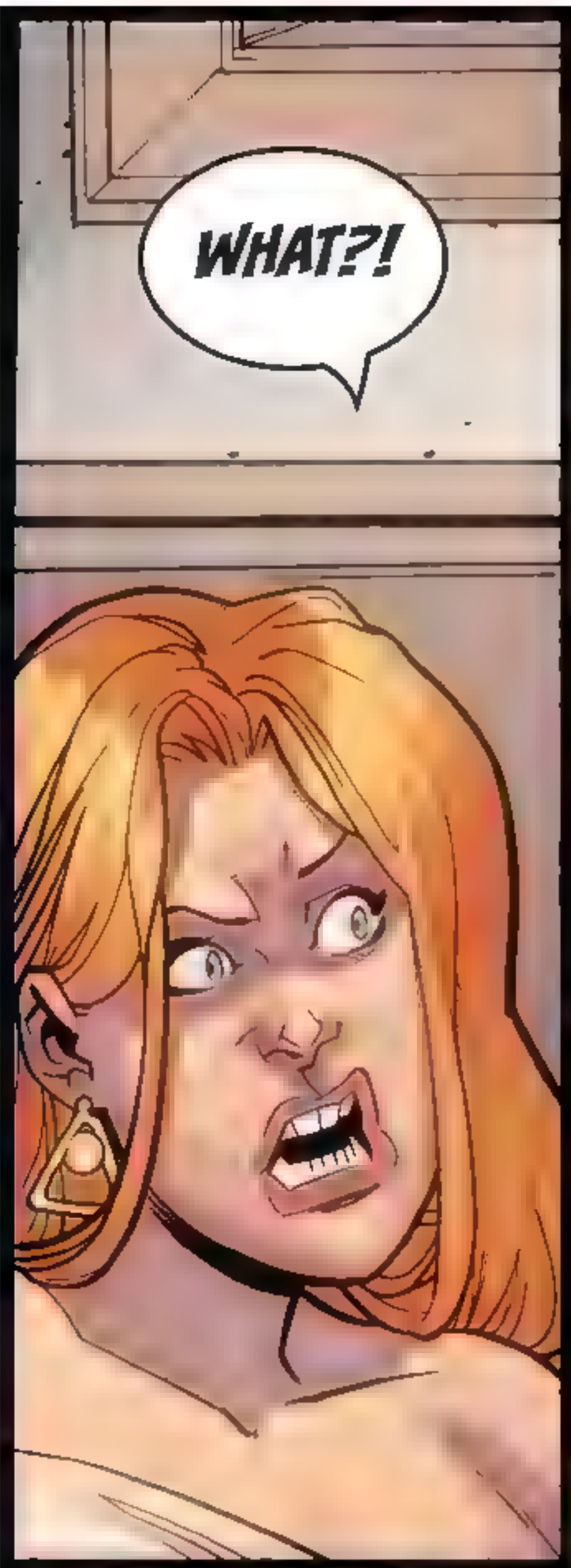
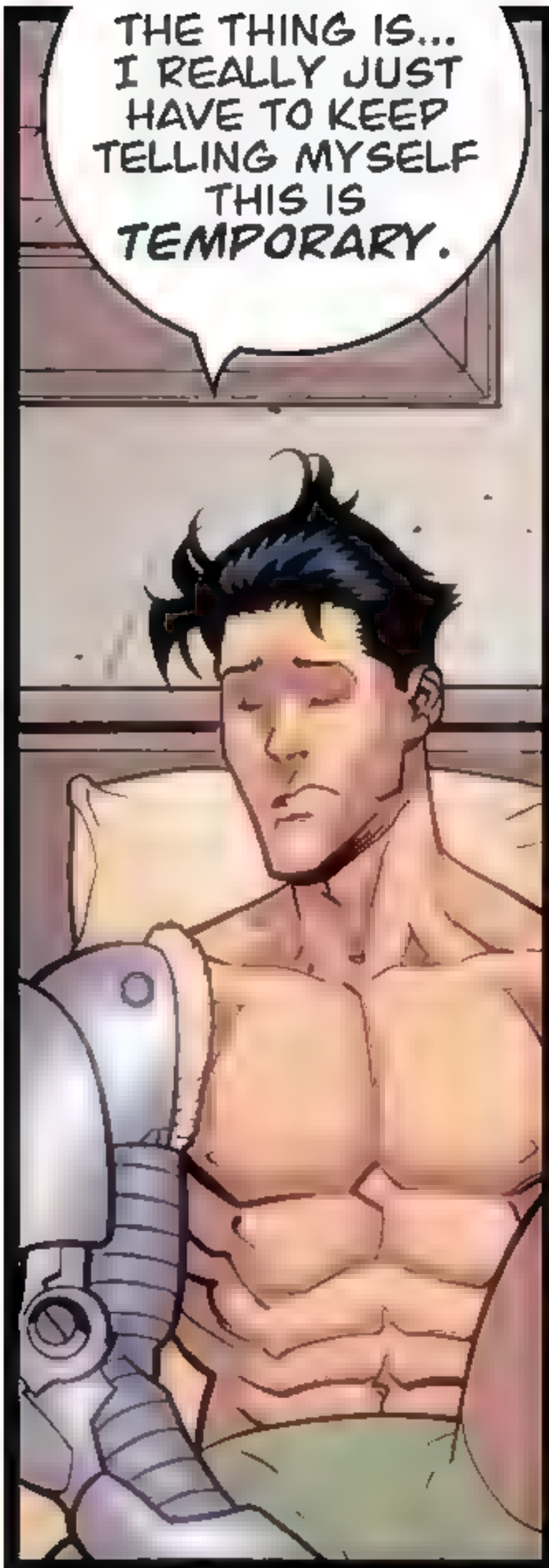
YOU ARE  
**PERFECT!**  
YOU'RE---



OKAY...  
LET'S...  
**BOTH STOP**  
COMPLAINING  
ABOUT  
OURSELVES.

AGREED.







"I'VE GOT NO IDEA  
WHAT HE COULD  
BE WORKING ON."





DEEP BELOW THE PENTAGON,  
THE SECRET HEADQUARTERS OF  
THE GLOBAL DEFENSE AGENCY.

UNITED STATES  
PENTAGON

Parking in Rear



I KNEW YOUR  
MOTHER ONLY  
BRIEFLY. I CARED  
FOR HER, BUT WE  
WERE NOT...  
MEANT TO BE  
TOGETHER.

I NEVER  
KNEW YOU--  
THAT WE'D--I  
DIDN'T EVEN THINK  
IT COULD BE  
POSSIBLE FOR  
MY MONSTER  
FORM TO...

IF I'D  
KNOWN YOU  
EXISTED, I  
WOULD NEVER  
HAVE LEFT...  
I WOULD  
HAVE...

I HAVE  
NOTHING  
TO SAY  
TO YOU.

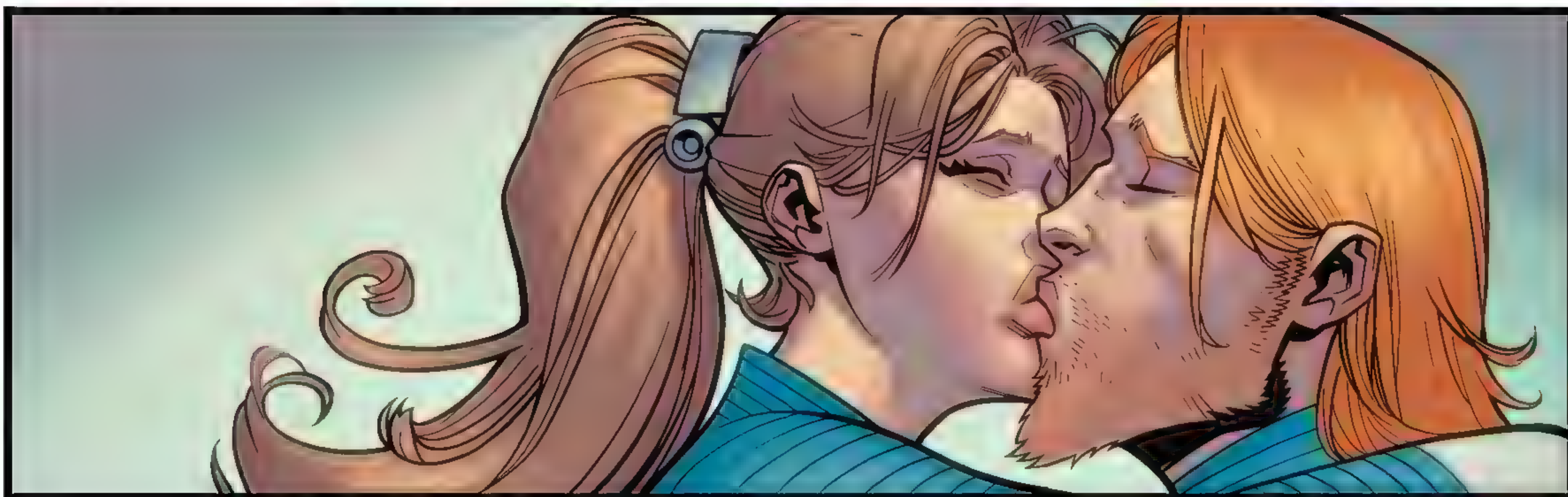
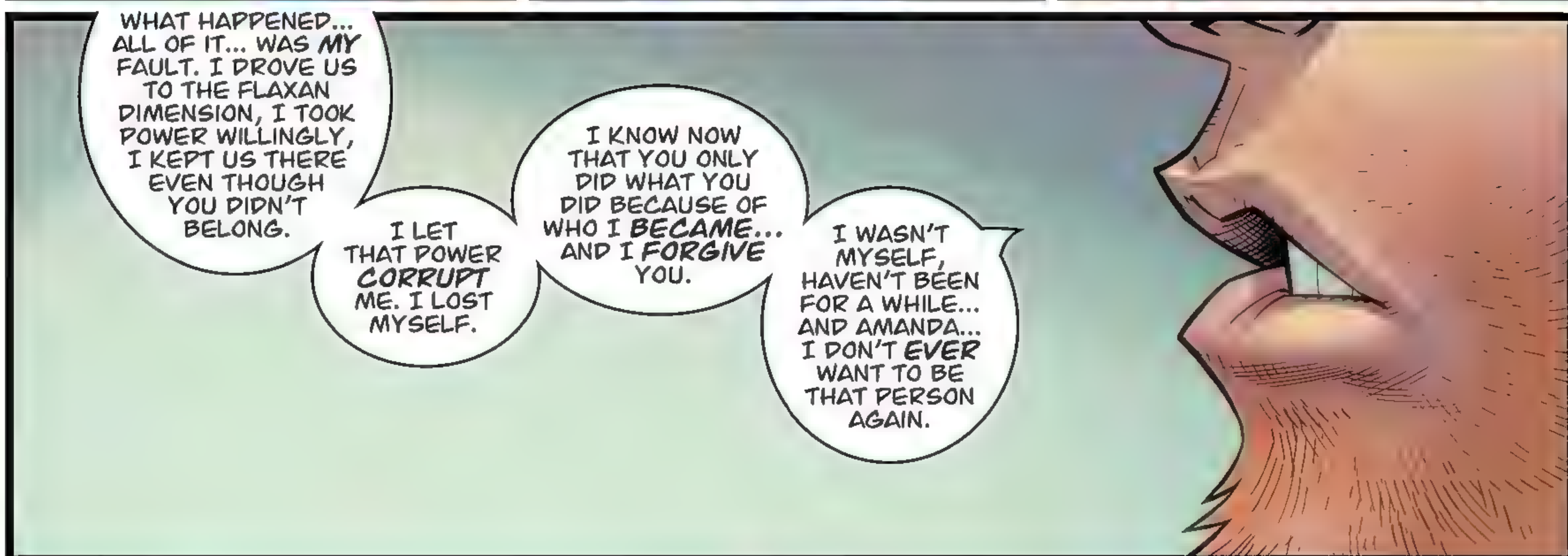
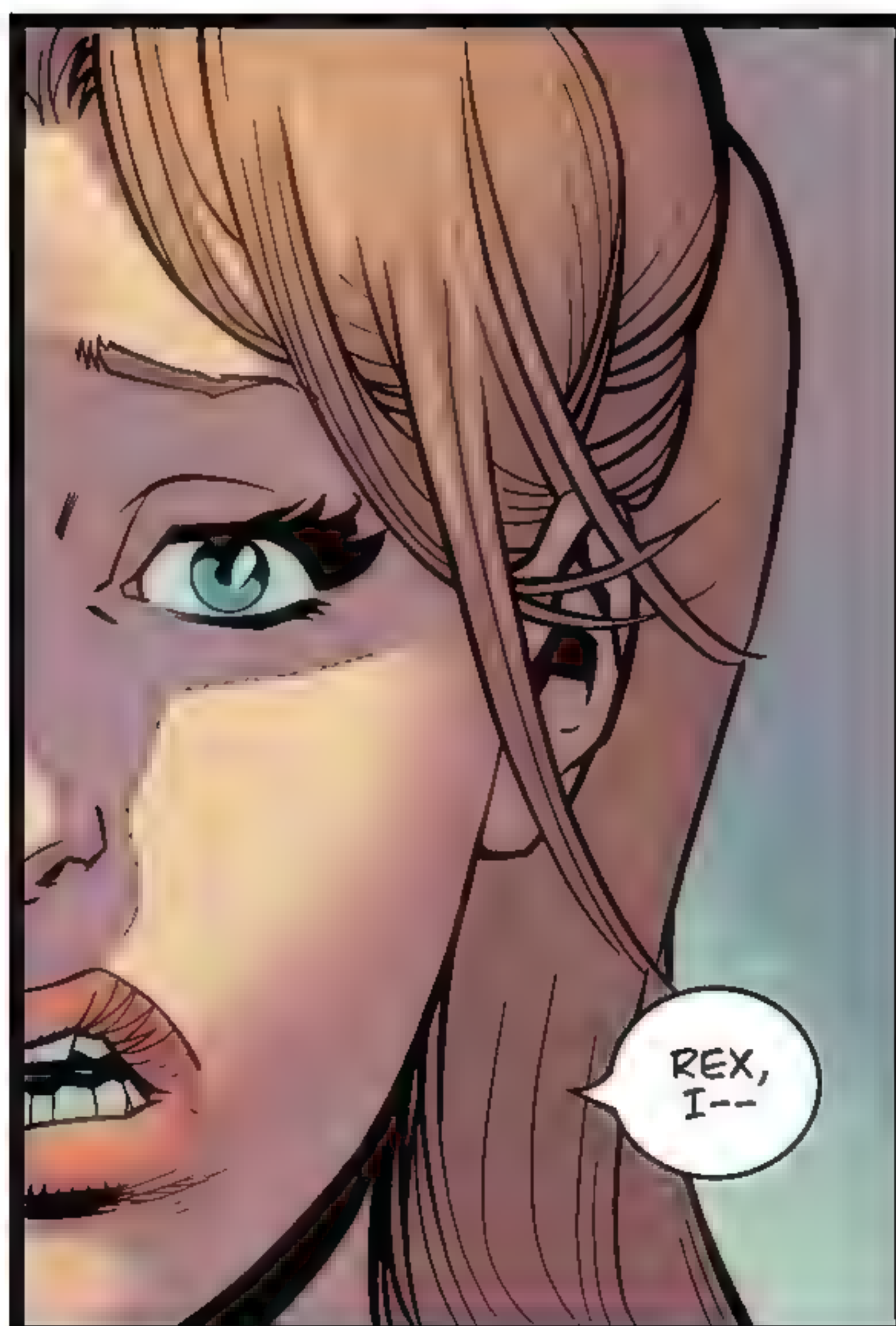
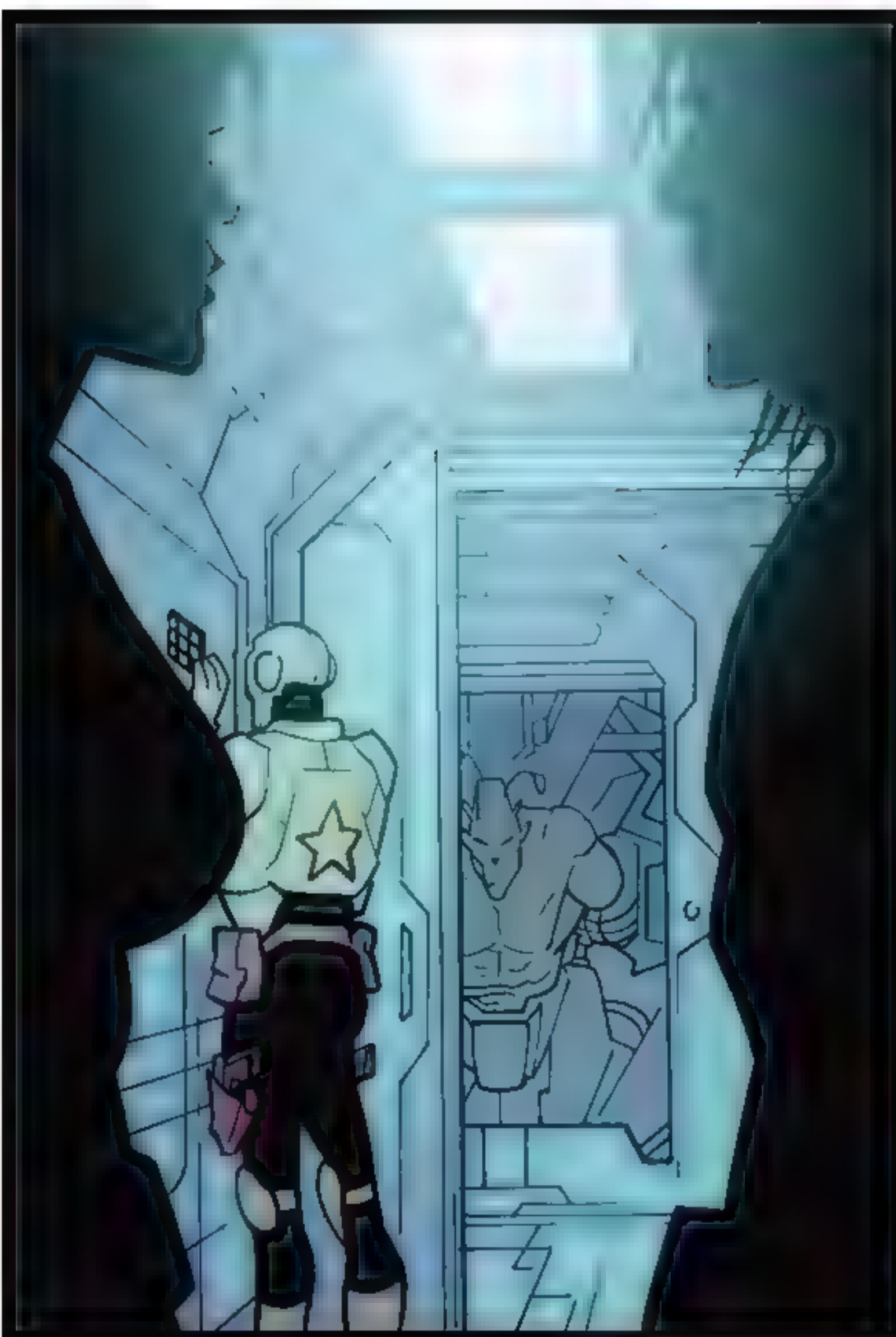
LEAVE  
ME.

WE  
SHOULD  
GO.

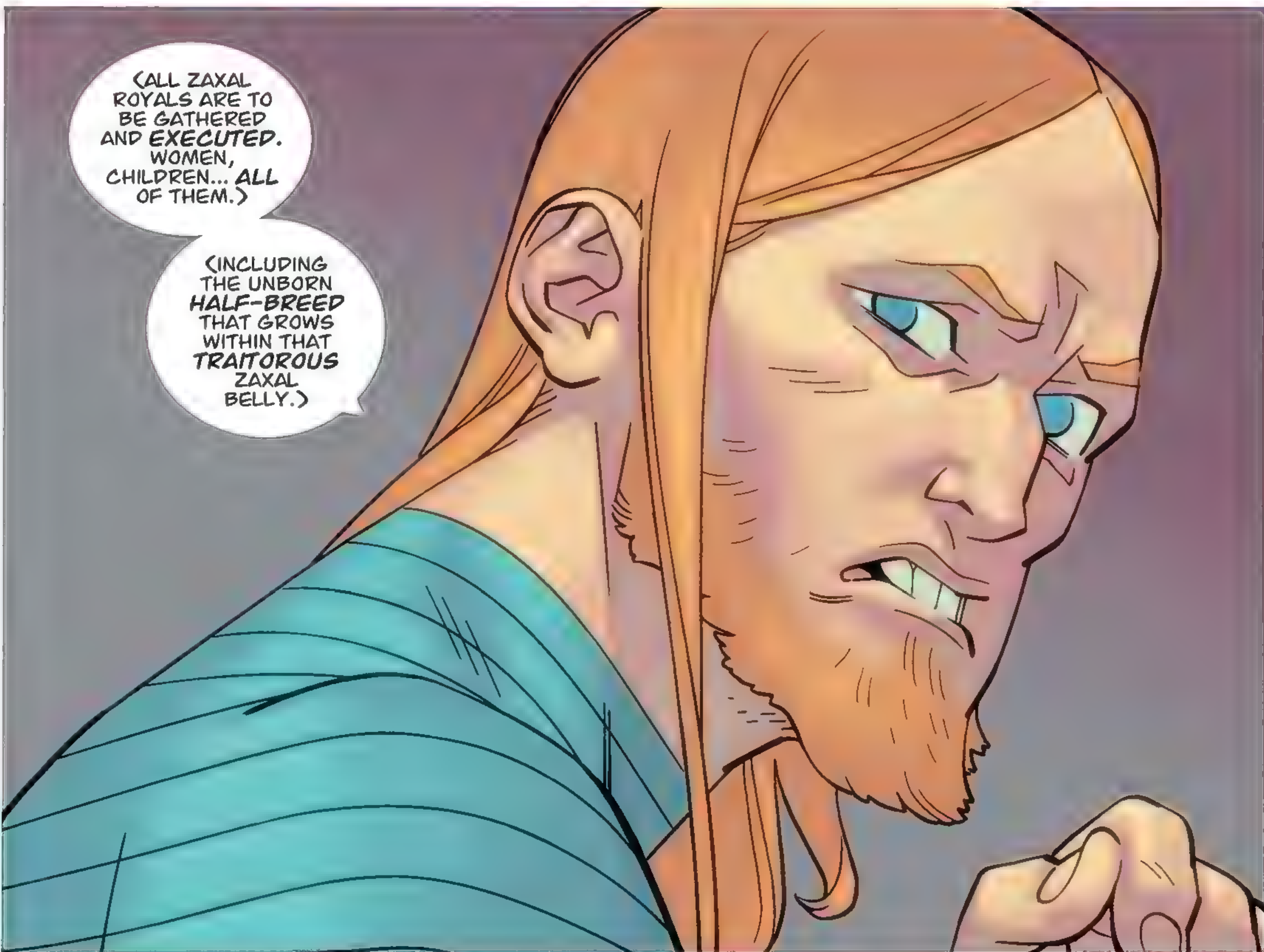
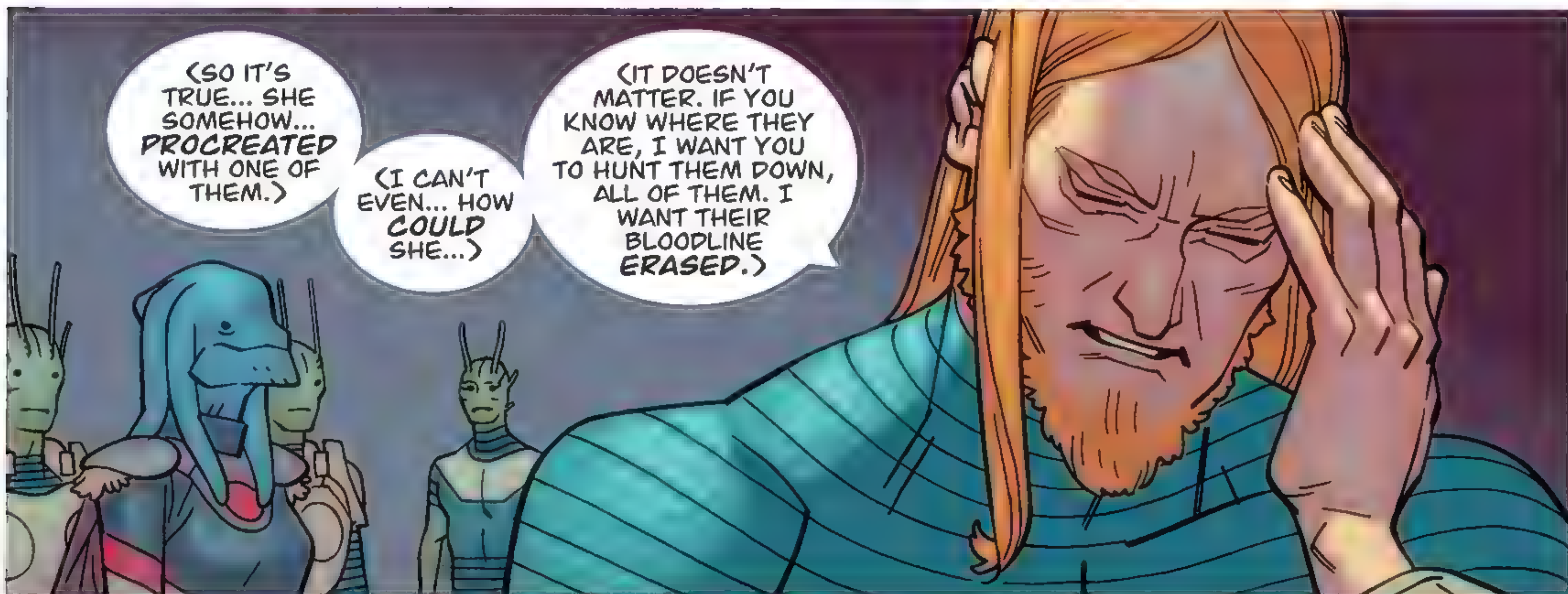
THANKS  
FOR DOING  
THIS,  
REX.

I DON'T  
THINK I COULD  
HAVE GOTTEN  
THROUGH  
THIS ALONE.

















**RYAN OTTLEY:** Ahhh yes, volume 17! Welcome all. Have a seat, grab a warm cup of whatever, and check out the drawings that Cory and I did, that Robert forced us to draw.

**ROBERT KIRKMAN:** HEY!!

**RYAN OTTLEY:** Robert told me the idea of having Cory back for a couple issues, and he told me about his idea of both of us drawing IN the same issue, Cory doing the Flaxan alien scenes and I doing the Earth scenes. Which is a cool idea. I'm always worried about artists doing the same issue. I remember hating seeing more than one artist on a book, characters changing styles throughout, but this idea was different. Two artists drawing different scenes. Way cool. It all sounded awesome. I was excited for it. And it went great. I loved seeing Cory's countless new designs for everything.

Here's the cover of this volume, split right down the middle with a little bit of Zandale Invincible spilling over into Cory's half to confound and confuse Cory and make his job harder. But still he made it awesome. Me crossing the line never sways him. So I started with a digital layout, then printed out my layout and worked over that to form the pencils, then inks!

**CORY WALKER:** You said it, Ryan! Working in tandem on this story arc was a real treat, and aside from the pure joy of brotherly love combining it actually serviced the story, and wasn't just a gimmick or whatever. Pretty cool with the ideas there, Mr. Kirkman. And that John Rauch, taking a different approach to coloring the separate timelines really sold it. Speaking of John, he really saved my half of the cover. I confound and confuse easily and Mr. Rauch really picked up the slack of the befuddled Cory Walker side of things. Great work, us guys!

**ROBERT KIRKMAN:** Aw, shucks.



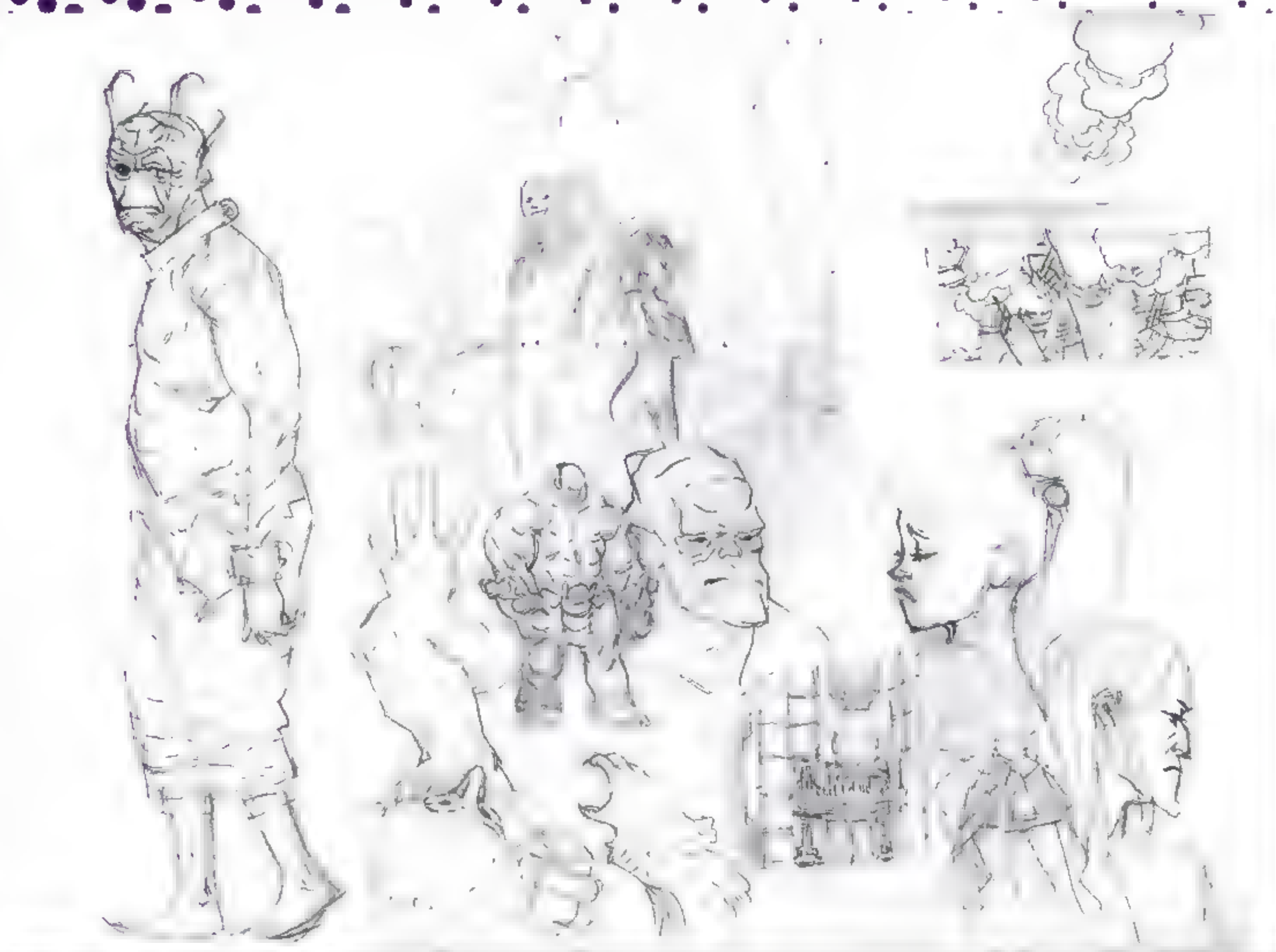




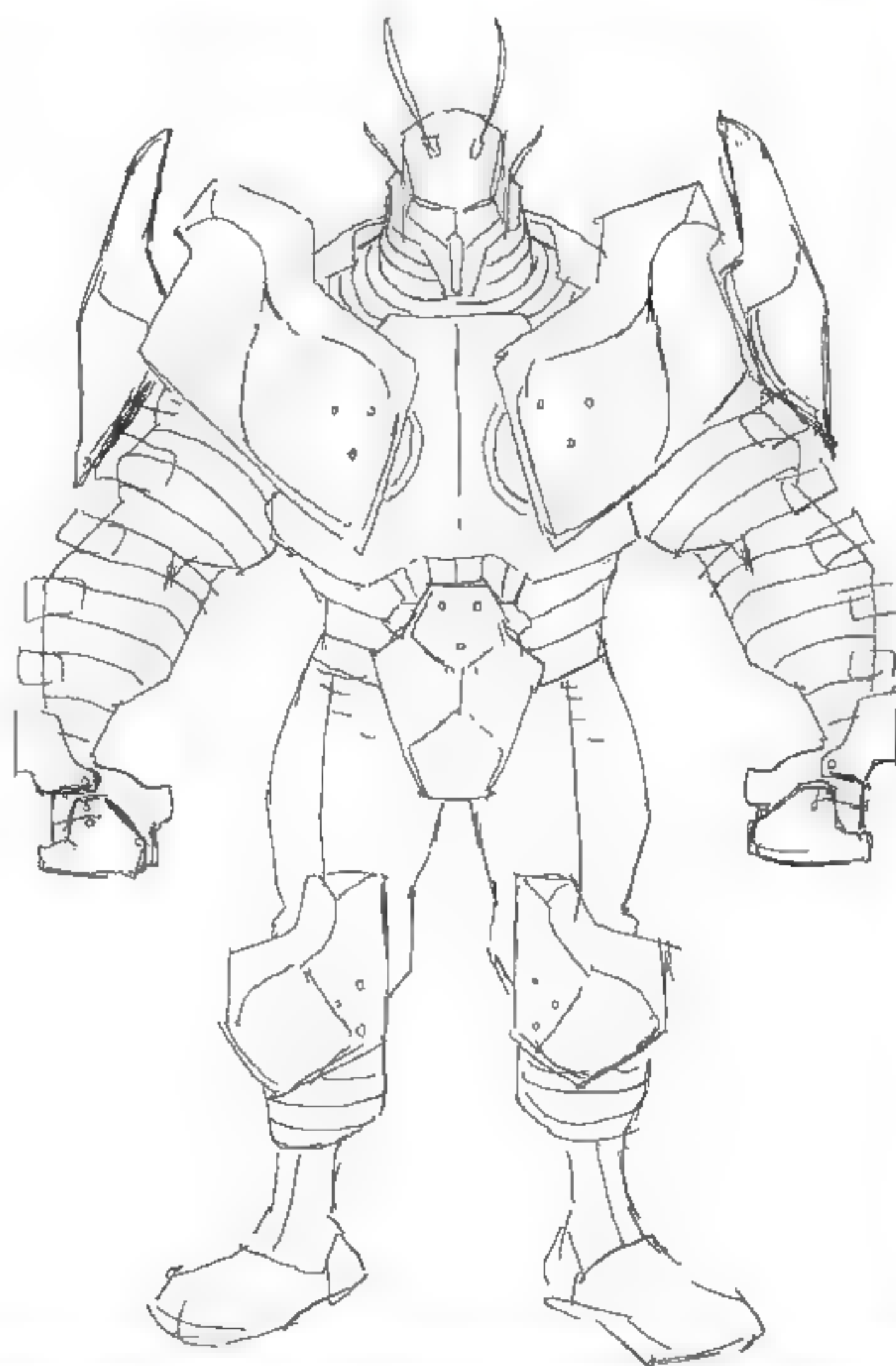
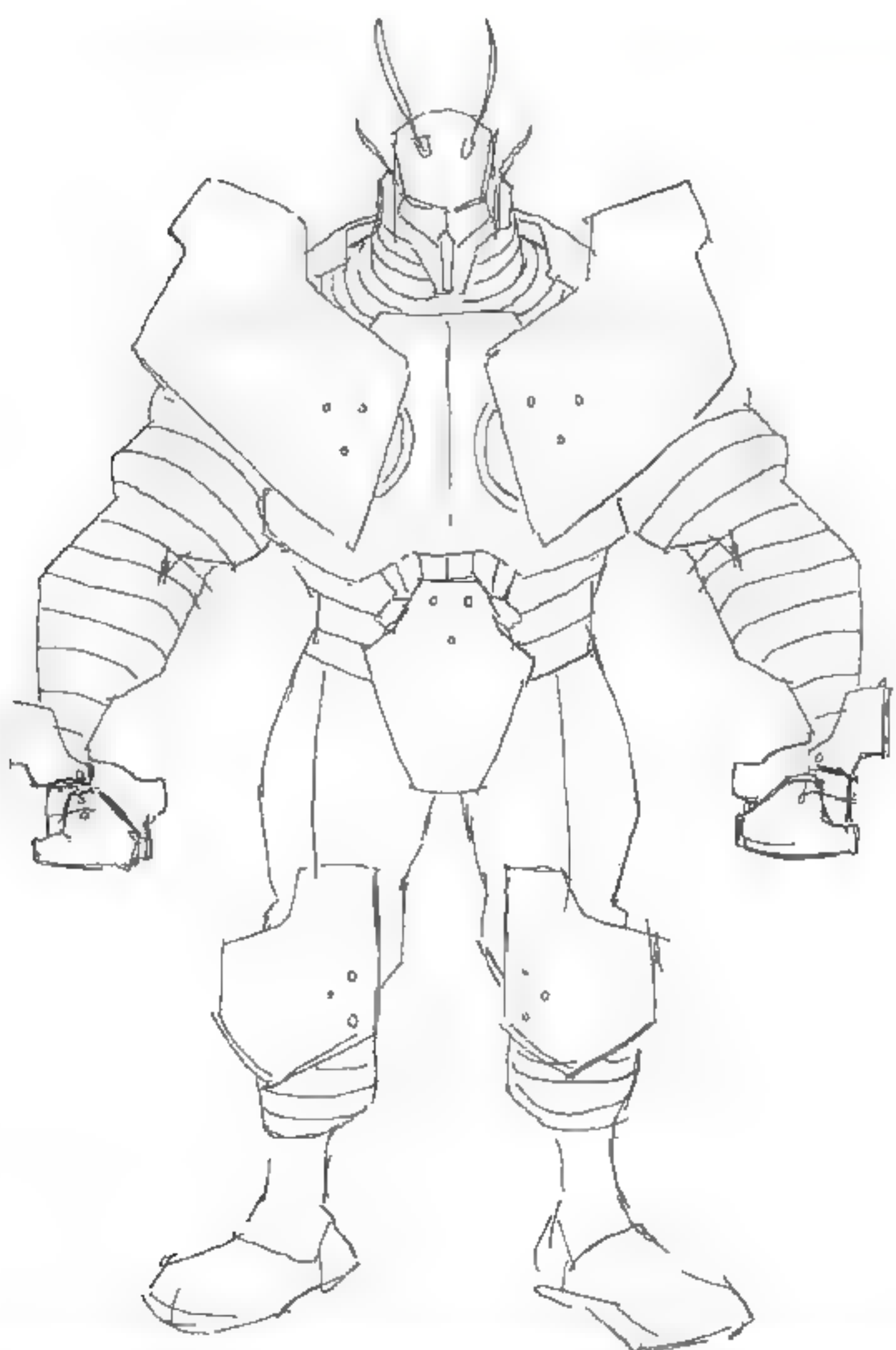
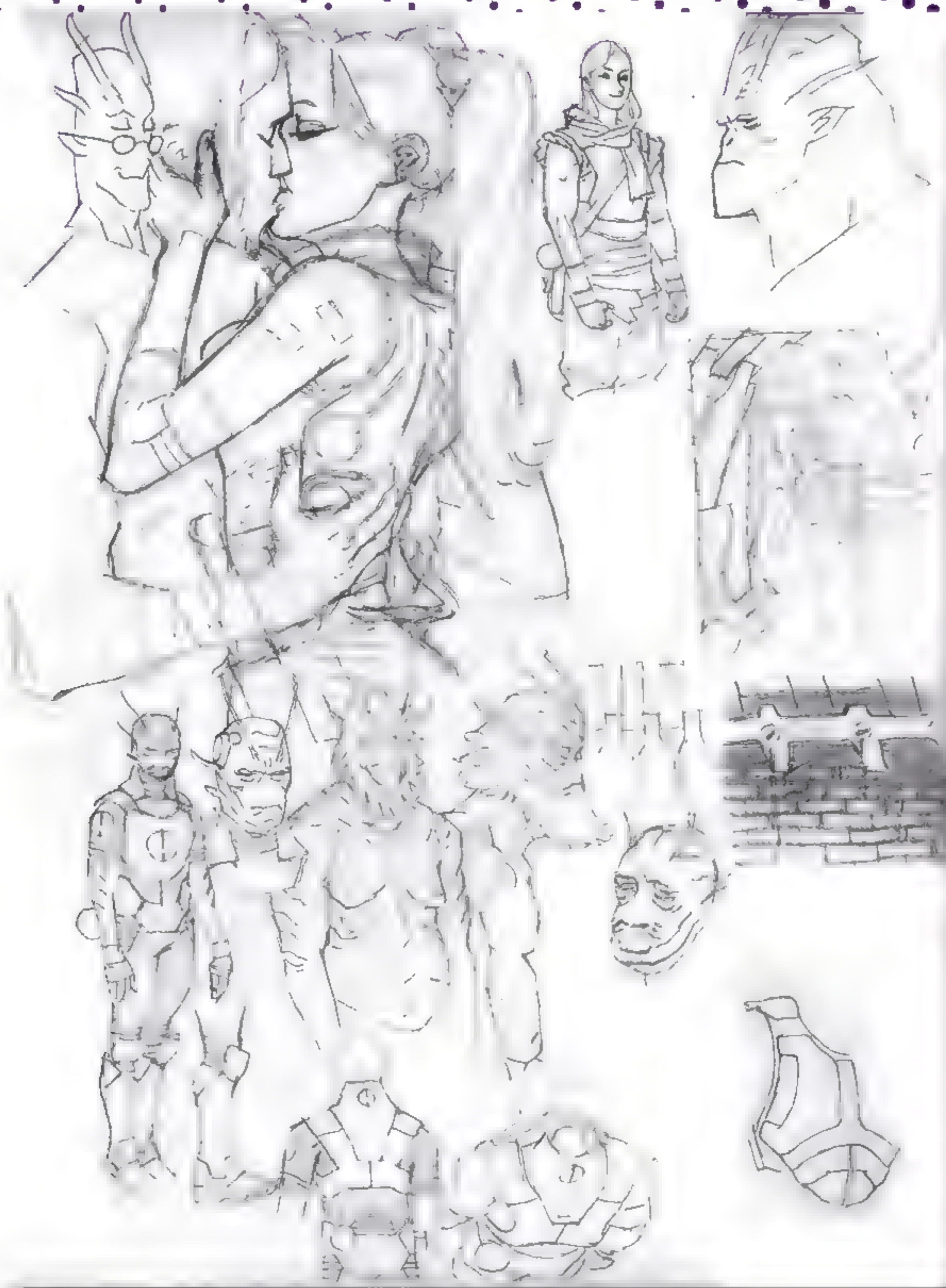


**RYAN:** And here are LOADS of awesome Cory designs. I could look at these all day. I usually do most of my designs right on the page because I don't make time for many designs, so not many here from me. Cory designed the Flaxan bad dude kid, I threw on armor plates, like big shields all over him attached to the little screw things. Love seeing Cory's kissing sketches. Kissing is SO hard for me to draw, but Cory makes it look SO easy. Makes me wonder....

**CORY:** Wonder no more; I am a great kisser. I tend to do a lot of designing on the page myself, but every now and again I'll have an idea before I need it, or decide to design-it-out for whatever reason and that's why these sketches are here. I tried to draw that Monster Girl, Amanda, in totally new clothes every time we saw her, not only to sell you on the passage of time, but because that's cool and makes sense. Here you can also see a lot of preliminary sketching for my cover contributions and bits where I'm figuring out bits of certain pages. It's pretty tough having to design so much, but it was a lot of fun, too. And man, Ryan, I love what you did with the big guy and his armor. I'm just glad I never really had to draw him because I would've screwed it up.







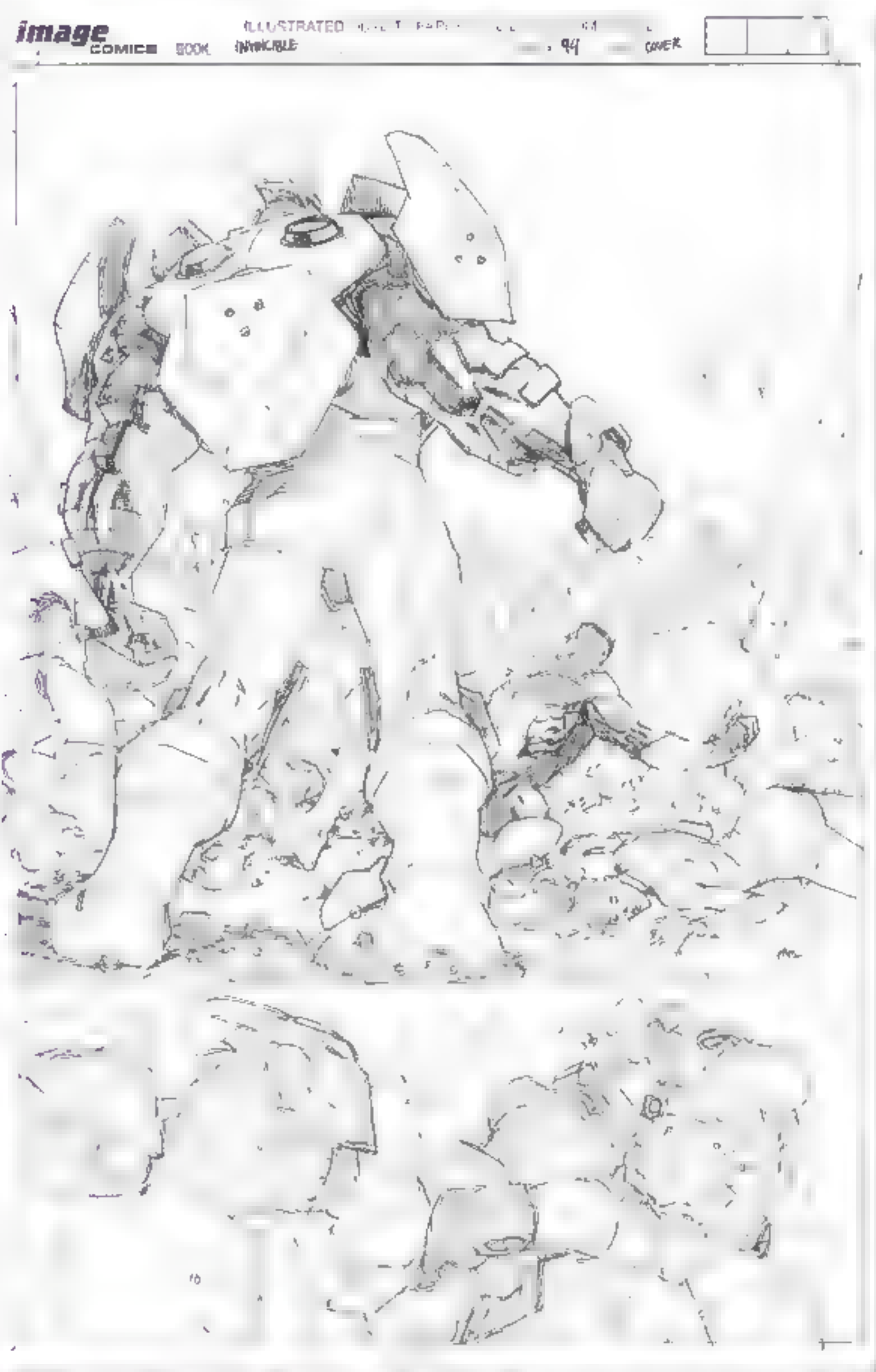
**KIRKMAN:** That big guy has a name! And I can't remember it right now either! Sean?!

**SEAN:** Monax!!!

**KIRKMAN:** Seriously, though... Cory is an amazing designer. The fact that he created about a hundred space outfits just for this story is crazy. He's way better than you are, Ryan... at kissing!







**RYAN:** Cover for issue 94. First time I drew the bad Flaxan dude. I'm curious what will happen to that guy. Hey Robert, drop us a spoiler here in the sketchbook section!

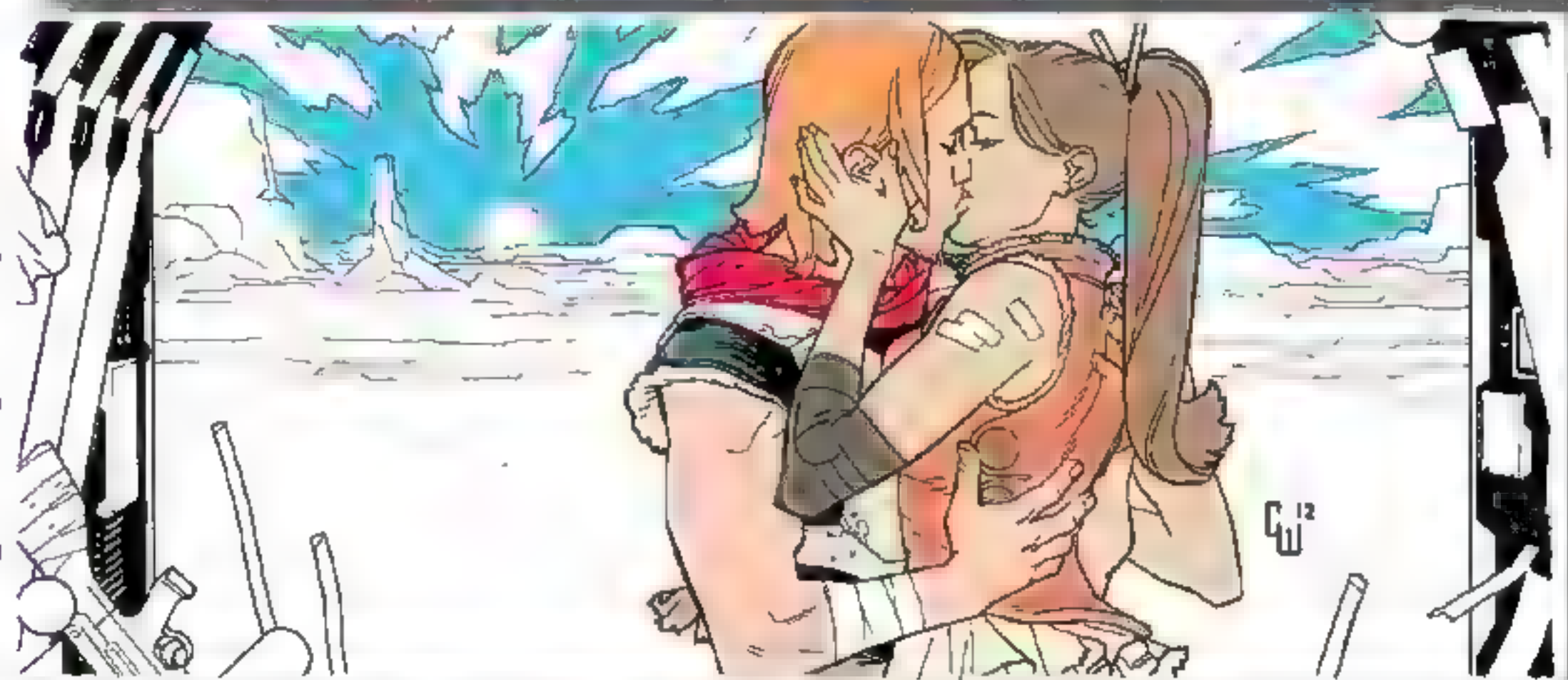
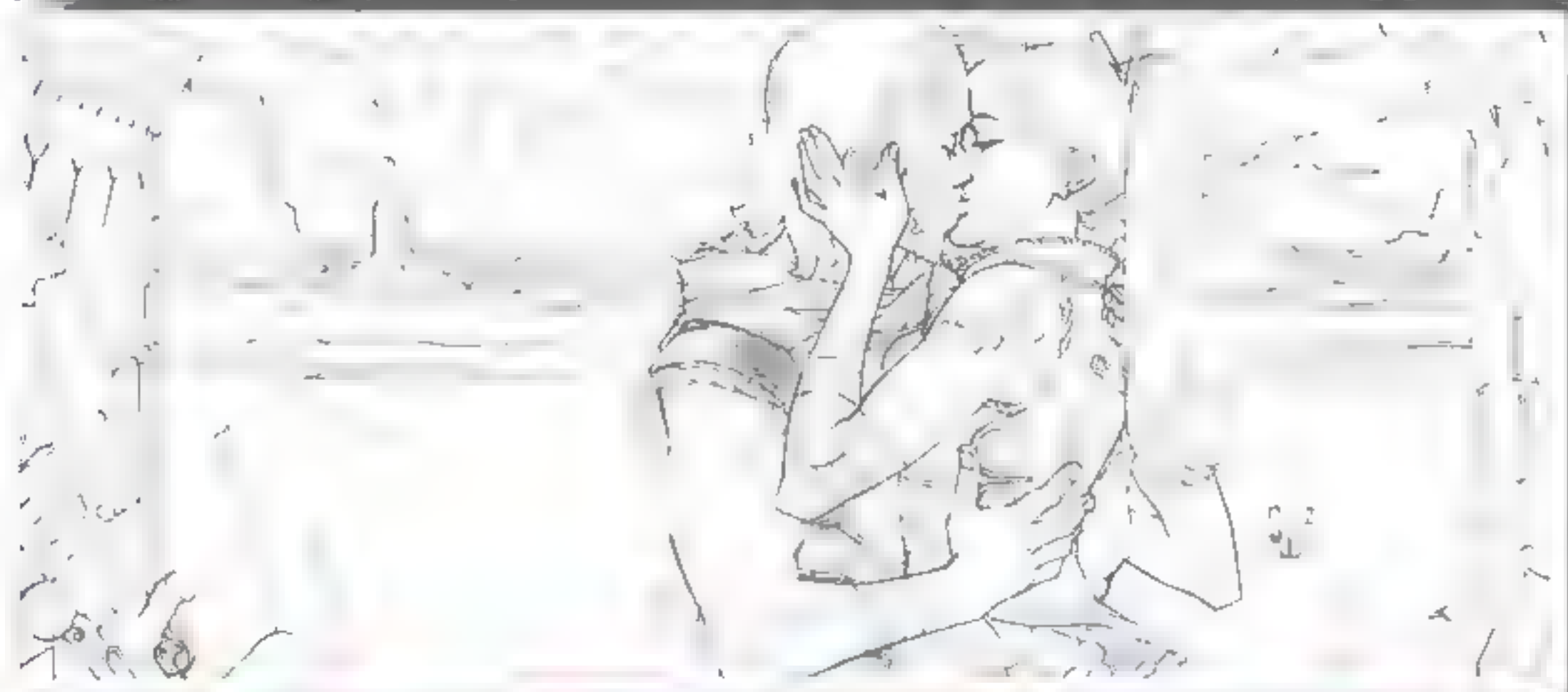
**ROBERT:** He reforms and eventually joins the Guardians of the Globe.

**RYAN:** And Cory did that bottom panel, kissing again. Delicious.

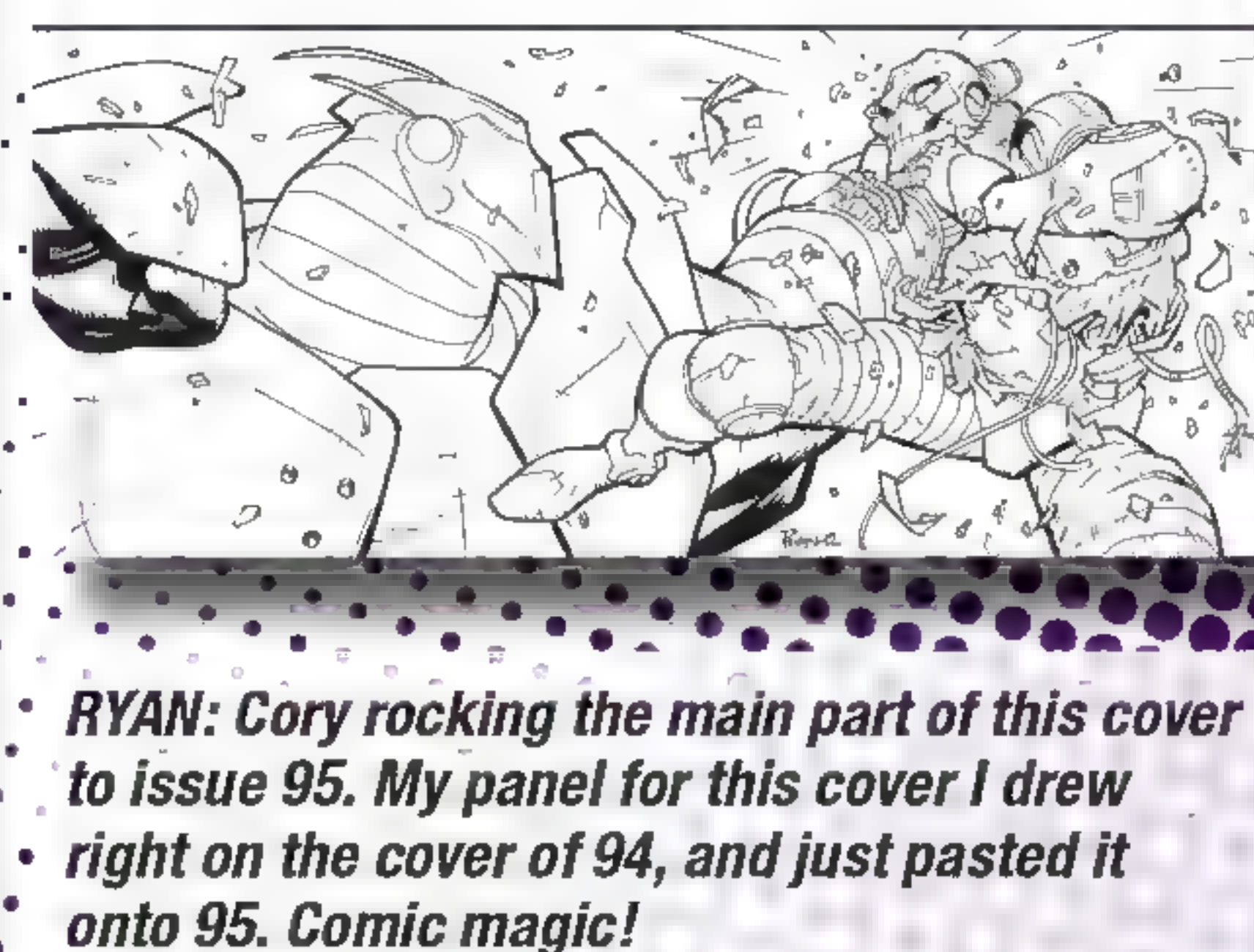
**CORY:** I could draw a comic about kissing, just so you guys know. Call me.

Here you can see the sketch I light boxed to get the cover started, my pencils, and then a little color mock-up so Mr. Rauch could see what bits of that mess were supposed to be sky and which were clouds, as well as what bits of clothing were what. When you leave so much work to the colorist, it's the right thing to do.

**ROBERT:** I love you guys (I have nothing to add, clearly).







**RYAN:** Cory rocking the main part of this cover to issue 95. My panel for this cover I drew right on the cover of 94, and just pasted it onto 95. Comic magic!

**CORY:** Well done, Ryan! That s using your noggin.

**ROBERT:** I loved these split covers. Pretty cool having both of you on each cover--and the issue where Cory did more pages, he did the main image! That's planning!





**RYAN:** Here's a page from issue 92, digital layouts to pencils, and there are Cliff Rathburn's inks. I send him a hi-res file of my pencils which he prints out and inks on his own paper.

**CORY:** Man, this stuff is so cool. There's so much power and energy in your layouts and not one ounce of either is lost in the penciling stage OR when Cliff works his magic on the inks. You guys make quite the team.

**ROBERT:** Digital?! Phooey! Why, back in MY day...





**RYAN:** A few commissions I did for awesome fans at comic conventions. The Eve one there is a result of someone asking me to draw "ANYTHING." Normally when people ask for that, I draw a fun bloody monster or something, but this one was done for someone who loved Eve, so I did this for him. I don't know why exactly. I guess I'm a mean person. The last one is a wedding pic. They asked me to just design wedding costumes. Colors didn't turn out exactly how I would've liked. But there's no erasies with marker. Sigh.

**CORY:** Dang, Ryan.

**ROBERT:** Yeah... we'll have to remember that sweet wedding dress for when Eve marries... SOMEONE. I'm not giving out MORE spoilers! Great job all around, guys! Cory--you should start saving your commissions!!







SUPERHERO

The new Invincible is still learning his way around his new identity, but evil waits for no one—so, of course, THE FLAXANS have decided to invade our dimension again! Meanwhile, we finally learn exactly what happened between Robot and Monster Girl when they were stranded in the Flaxan Dimension—and how those events are related to the current invasion!

This volume collects issues 91-96 of the Eisner Nominated series.



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SKYBOUND



